When we call to God from the quiet center of the heart—with simple, sincere yearning to know Him and feel His love—unfailingly we draw His response. That sweet presence of the Divine Beloved becomes our supreme Reality. It brings complete fulfillment. It transforms our lives.

—

The greatest joy you can ever know is in silently talking to the Divine in the language of the soul. His is a love that can never disappoint us; I speak from years of experience. That is why I urge you: Love God, love God, love God.

—

We must learn to live and move and have our being in the consciousness of His love; and then one day to melt again back into that Immortal Love, where we will all meet again.

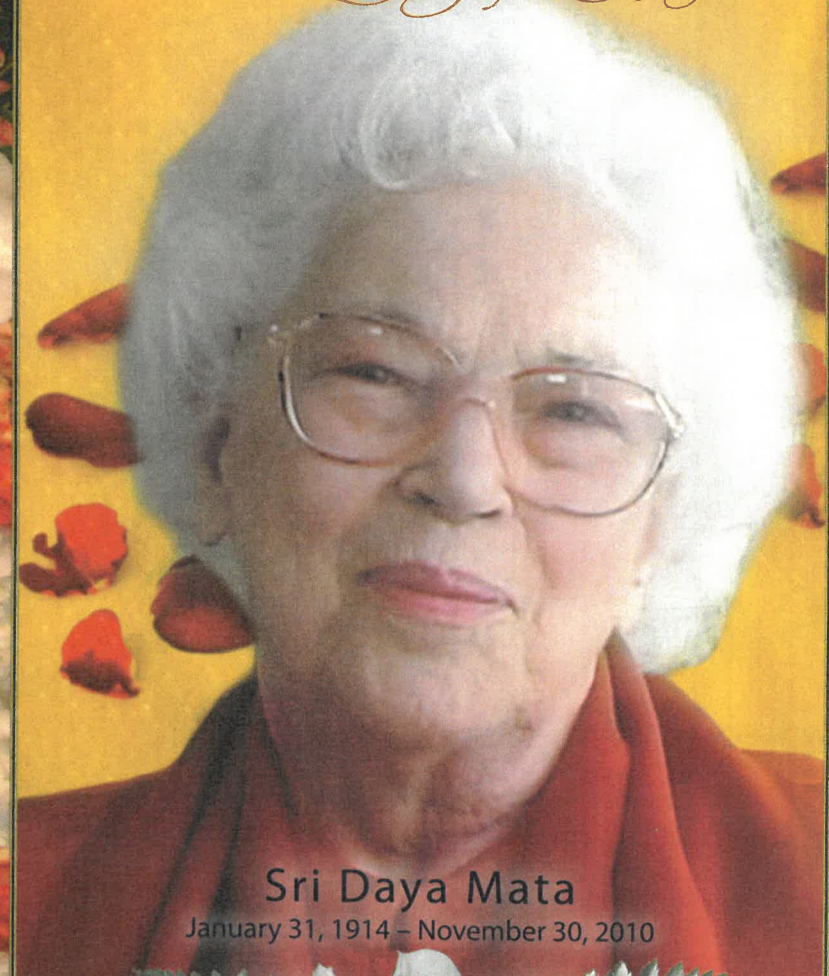
God bless you all!

Daya Mata

Self-Realization

A Magazine Devoted to Healing of Body, Mind, and Soul

In Loving Memory



Sri Daya Mata

January 31, 1914 – November 30, 2010

Spring 2011

Self-Realization Fellowship
FOUNDED 1920
Paramahansa Yogananda

$6

Paramahansa Yogananda to Sri Daya Mata:

When I have left this world, only love can take my place. Be so drunk with the love of God night and day that you won't know anything but God; and give that love to all.

Self-Realization

FOUNDED IN 1925 BY PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA

A Magazine Devoted to Healing of Body, Mind, and Soul

Healing the body of disease by proper diet, right living, and recharging the body with God's all-powerful cosmic energy; removing inharmonies and inefficiency from the mind by concentration, constructive thinking, and cheerfulness; and freeing the ever perfect soul from the bonds of spiritual ignorance by meditation.

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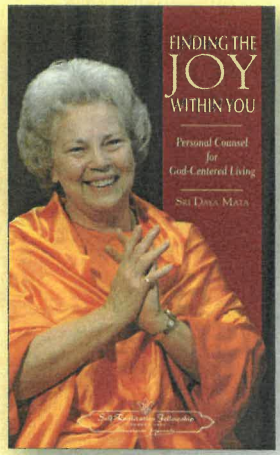
Sri Daya Mata BOOKS



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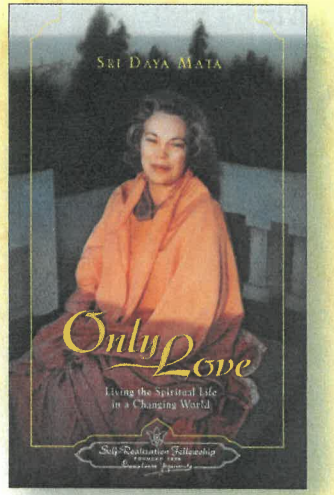

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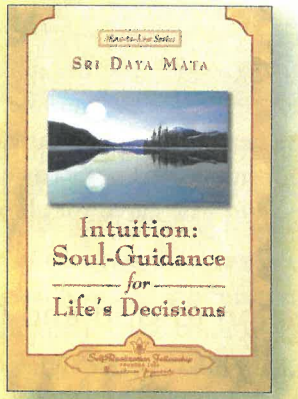

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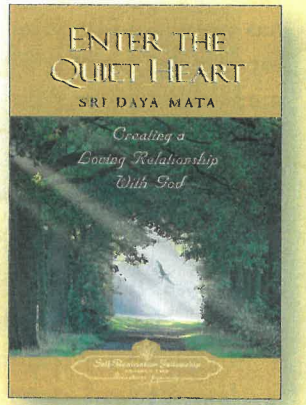

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In Memoriam:

Sri Daya Mata

(1914–2010)

A Life of Love, Humility, and Devoted Service to God

On November 30, 2010, our beloved president and *sanghamata,* Sri Daya Mata, peacefully left this world for the joy of her eternal home in God. Chosen by Paramahansa Yogananda to lead his work and serve as a spiritual mother to those drawn to his teachings, she has been a guiding force of inspiration, wisdom, and compassion for Self-Realization Fellowship/Yogoda Satsanga Society of India monastics and members alike as spiritual head of Paramahansaji's worldwide society for more than fifty-five years. She will be deeply missed by all those whose lives she touched by her love and understanding and by the integrity of her spiritual example. Yet, as she often said, "Divine love reaches beyond the boundaries of this life," and she will ever remain in our minds and hearts as one who lived the Guru's ideals to the fullest and who cared for all of God's children.

Eighty Years of Consecration to God and Guru

Sri Daya Mata led an extraordinary life — nearly eighty years of which were spent as a monastic disciple in her Guru's ashrams, her thoughts ever permeated with love for God and her actions dedicated to serving Him. She radiated a rare strength and love for all,

while at the same time carrying out the vast responsibilities of overseeing Paramahansa Yogananda's spiritual and humanitarian work and growing it all over the world. She was a true "mother of compassion" — as her name signified — offering unconditional love and kindness to all who crossed her path and praying daily for the countless souls who asked for her spiritual help.

An exceptional example of true humility, Daya Mataji always put God uppermost in her consciousness. She once said, "I often remind myself: I am what I am before God and Guru,

no more and no less. I make no claims to being perfect or to possessing great talents or abilities; my endeavor in this life is to perfect one thing — my love for my God." In her faithfulness to that goal, she became a pure channel for His love to flow to innumerable souls.

Her life was one wholly given to serving God and humanity through her Guru's teachings. She was a supreme example of how to live a balanced life, remaining steadfast in her spiritual routine and finding joy and fulfillment even in the midst of her demanding responsibilities. She once said, "I am able to carry on all these duties not *in spite* of our spiritual routine, but *because* of it. That is where my strength, inspiration, and guidance come from — meditation in the morning, noon, and evening; and keeping my mind constantly focused on God in between meditations, as Paramahansaji taught us."

Early Life and First Meeting With Paramahansa Yogananda

Born Rachel Faye Wright in Salt Lake City, Utah, on January 31, 1914, Daya Mata grew up in a unique family. Her parents, Clarence Aaron Wright and Rachel Terry Wright, were both from original Mormon families that had crossed the country in covered wagons to found the state of Utah. Her mother, sister, and two brothers all became disciples of Paramahansaji. Her sister Virginia, later known as Ananda Mata, became a nun of the SRF Order in 1933, and served for many years as secretary and treasurer

(Left) Childhood photo of Sri Daya Mata (center), Ananda Mata, and C. Richard Wright. (Above) Daya Mataji honored in India during her first visit, 1958.

of the SRF Board of Directors. Her mother, later known as Shyama Mata, joined the ashram in 1935. They both served dedicatedly in the small group of the Guru's closest disciples until their passing. Her older brother, C. Richard Wright, assisted the Guru during his extended trip to India in 1935–1936, and passages from his fascinating travel diary are quoted in Paramahansaji's spiritual classic, *Autobiography of a Yogi*. He and her younger brother, Dale Wright, remained lifelong followers of the SRF teachings.

"'When I grow up I will never marry; I will go to India.' Prophetic words from a child."

From her earliest years, Daya Mata had a deep longing to know God. At the age of eight, when she first learned about India in school, she felt a mysterious inner awakening, and with it a conviction that India held the key to the fulfillment of her life. That day, when school was over, she ran home and exclaimed jubilantly to her mother, "When I grow up I will never marry; I will go to India." Prophetic words from a child.

She began to feel that something was missing from her

church experiences and yearned for something more satisfying. When she was fifteen, she was given a copy of the Bhagavad Gita, which had a profound impact on her because through it she learned that God was approachable and knowable, and that His children were divine beings who, through self-effort, could realize their spiritual birthright—oneness with the Divine. It was then that Sri Daya Mata resolved that she would devote her life to seeking God. She went from one religious authority to another, yet always there remained in her heart an unsatisfied question: "But who *loves* God; who *knows* Him?"

"This man loves God as I have always longed to love Him. He knows God. Him I shall follow!"

In 1931, Paramahansa Yogananda came to Salt Lake City to give a series of classes. Daya Mata, then seventeen, attended with her mother and sister. Recalling her first impressions, she said, "As I stood at the back of the crowded auditorium, I became transfixed, unaware of anything around me except the speaker and his words. My whole being was absorbed in the wisdom and divine love that were pouring into my soul and flooding my heart and mind. I could only think, 'This man loves God as I have always longed to love Him. He *knows* God. Him I shall follow!'" [See the online version of this article on our website for video of Sri Daya Mata describing this first encounter, and other video clips mentioned in this article.]

In an assemblage of thousands it seemed unlikely that the shy young girl would have any opportunity to meet the Guru. But it is said that adversity is sometimes a blessing in disguise. Daya Mata had been suffering from a severe blood disorder. The illness, which doctors had been unable to cure, had finally forced her to leave school. However, she was faithfully attending Paramahansaji's classes, and the bandages covering her swollen face apparently attracted the attention of the great Guru. Sri Daya Mata recalled his asking her if she believed that God could heal her. When she said yes, he touched her between the eyebrows and said to her, "From this day forward you are healed. In one week the bandages will no longer be necessary. Your scars will be gone." It happened exactly as he predicted.

But to Daya Mata, an even greater blessing than her remarkable cure was an opportunity to meet this man of God. She was extremely shy, and always wondered how she found the courage to say to him: "I want so much to enter your ashram and devote my life to seeking God." The Guru looked at her penetratingly for a moment before replying: "And you shall."

***(Left)** Salt Lake City in the 1930s. **(Above)** Paramahansa Yogananda in 1931, the year Sri Daya Mata met him during his lecture series in Salt Lake City.*

One of the First Monastic Disciples of Self-Realization Fellowship

But it would require a miracle for that to come to pass, as family opposition was great. She was still a young girl, and

her staunchly Mormon relatives — with the exception of her understanding mother — were firmly set against her leaving home to follow a religion wholly foreign to them. One evening, Paramahansa Yogananda said in his lecture that if a devotee called deeply enough to God, with determination to receive a response, His answer would be forthcoming. Daya Mata made her resolve; and that night after the family had retired, she went into the living room, where she could be alone. Tears flowed as she poured out her heart to God. After several hours, a profound peace came over her whole being, and she could cry no longer: she knew that God had heard her prayer. Within two weeks all doors were opened, and on

November 19, 1931, she was able to enter Paramahansa Yogananda's ashram in Los Angeles. ***(See photos at left.)***

With an eager and receptive heart, she absorbed her Guru's guidance, and he saw in her the potential for the vital part she would eventually play in his mission. Shortly after their first meeting, Paramahansaji gave her the final vows of renunciation observed by India's ancient Swami Order (celibacy, nonattachment to possessions, obedience, and loyalty to God and Guru). She thus became one of the first *sannyasinis* (nuns) in Self-Realization Fellowship, pledging her heart and soul to a lifelong practice of complete dedication to God and Guru, daily meditation, and selfless service to others.

Sri Daya Mata's favorite photograph of her Guru, taken in the 1920s

During her first Christmas at the SRF/YSS International Headquarters and Ashram Center atop Mt. Washington, Paramahansaji placed a little glass egg on the divan where he knew she would sit. When she asked him why he had put it there, he told her: "You are my nest egg. When you came, I knew many other true devotees would be drawn to this path."

After only a short time in the ashram, in 1933, Paramahansa Yogananda published an announcement in SRF's magazine that she had been ordained as a minister of Self-Realization Fellowship. Thus she was one of the first women to be so designated — though in customary humility her

identity was given only as "Yogi F. Sevaka" — "F" for Faye, as she was then known; and "*sevaka*" meaning "servant of God."

Spiritual Discipline in the Guru's Ashram

Time sped by quickly at the feet of her Guru. Although she was deeply happy, those early years of ashram training were not without struggle. Paramahansaji was lovingly but firmly engaged in the task of transforming the young nun into an exemplary disciple. From the beginning it was evident that the Guru had singled out Daya Mata for a special role. He later told her that he had given to her the same intense spiritual discipline that his guru, Swami Sri Yukteswar, had given to him — a significant remark, since she was to inherit the spiritual and organizational mantle that Sri Yukteswar had bestowed on him.

(Below) *Paramahansa Yogananda with a group of disciples who had come to hear his lecture at the Parliament of Religions held at the Chicago World's Fair, 1933. Daya Mata (circled and inset at right) is holding her shorthand notebook and pen to record the Guru's talk, as she did for twenty years.*

For more than twenty years, Sri Daya Mata was part of the small circle of Paramahansaji's closest disciples, who were with him almost constantly. She served as his confidential secretary, and was also responsible for recording all of his talks, lectures, and classes in shorthand. She helped compile the detailed instructions on yoga meditation techniques and the art of spiritual living into lessons that to this day are printed and distributed to students of the *Self-Realization Fellowship Lessons.*

As the years passed, he assigned more and more responsibility to her; and in the closing period of his life, he began to speak openly to his monastic disciples of the worldwide role she was destined to play. As her duties became greater in the latter years of the Guru's life, Daya Ma found her position of increasing leadership to be a tremendous test. She wanted only to be a humble devotee, drawing ever closer to God through long and deep meditation. She pleaded with the Master to let her serve instead under whomever else he

(Below) *Paramahansaji on a picnic with Dr. and Mrs. Lewis (two of his earliest disciples in the U.S.), Daya Mata, and Ananda Mata*

Paramahansaji with (from left) Durga Mata, Rajarsi Janakananda, Daya Mata, and Ananda Mata, Encinitas Hermitage

would choose. But he remained adamant. Desiring above all else to do the will of God and her Guru, Daya Mata inwardly surrendered to what was being asked of her. "Now my work is finished," the Master told her. "Your work begins."

Not long before his passing the Guru informed her that he would soon leave his body. Stunned, Daya Mataji asked how his work could continue without him:

"Master, usually when the leader goes, an organization no longer grows but begins to die out. How will we carry on without you? What will hold and inspire us when you are no longer in the flesh?"

Quietly Paramahansaji answered: "When I am gone, only love can take my place. Be so drunk with the love of God that you will know nothing else but God; and give that love to all." These words became the guiding light of her life.

Carrying On the Worldwide Work

In 1955, three years after Paramahansa Yogananda's passing, Daya Mata succeeded the late Rajarsi Janakananda as president of Self-Realization Fellowship/Yogoda Satsanga Society of India. As spiritual successor to Sri Yogananda, she carried the responsibility of overseeing the spiritual guidance of SRF/YSS members; the training of monastic disciples who reside in the SRF/YSS ashrams in the U.S., Germany, and India; and to the administration of the many worldwide spiritual and humanitarian services of the organization. In addition to travels in the United States, Europe, Mexico, and Japan to visit SRF centers and give Kriya Yoga initiation, she made five extended trips to India over the years to guide and serve the organization's activities there.

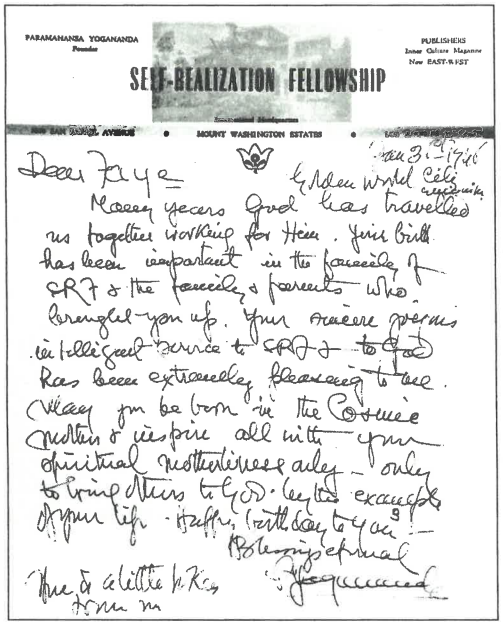
During one of her visits to India, Daya Mata was blessed by a personal encounter with Mahavatar Babaji, the supreme guru in the SRF/YSS lineage. During that visitation Babaji confirmed Paramahansa Yogananda's choice of Sri Daya Mata as the one who would carry on his spiritual mission as president of Self-Realization Fellowship/Yogoda Satsanga Society of India.*

On March 7, 1990, Los Angeles-area newspapers reported

*Described in Daya Mataji's book *Only Love* in the chapter entitled "A Blessing From Mahavatar Babaji."

***(Below)** Sri Daya Mata in 1970 with SRF Board members and senior ministers (from left): Uma Mata, Sahaja Mata, Ananda Mata, Durga Mata, Mrinalini Mata, and Brothers Anandamoy, Bhaktananda, Mokshananda, and Premamoy.*

Sri Daya Mata's thirty-fifth anniversary as president of the society. One article read, in part: "As one of the first women in recent times to be appointed spiritual head of a worldwide religious movement, she has been a forerunner of today's increasing trend toward accepting women in positions of spiritual authority that have traditionally been reserved for men in most denominations. In the thirty-five years she has held that position, many have become acquainted with her through her global speaking tours, her writings, and the films and recordings of her talks on the universal ideals espoused by the great religions of both East and West."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SELF-REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP

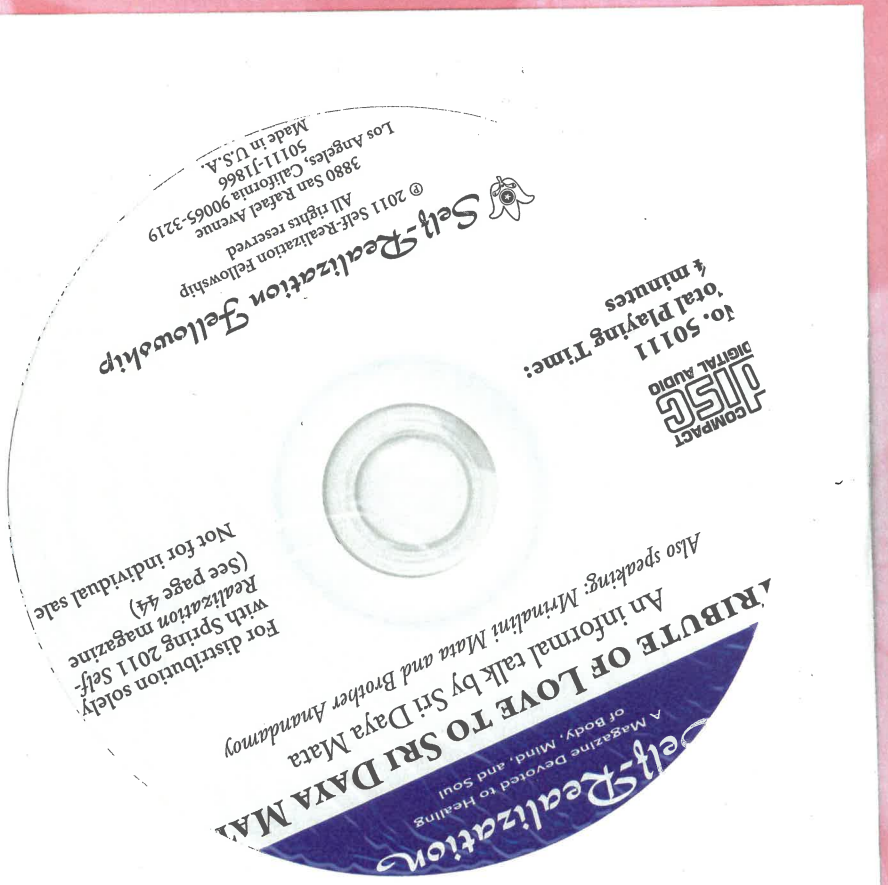
MOUNT WASHINGTON ESTATES

Dear Faye—
Many years God has travelled us together working for Him. Your birth has been important in the formula of SRF & the family & parents who brought you up. Your future years in intelligent service to SRF & to God Has been extremely pleasing to see. May you be born in the Cosmic Mother, and inspire all with your spiritual motherliness only—only to bring others to God by the example of your life. Happy birthday to you—
Blessings eternal
Love & a little bit of Kriya
from m

Through her many years of Kriya Yoga meditation and dedicated discipleship under Paramahansa Yogananda's guidance, Sri Daya Mata came to embody the spiritual depth and universal love required of the one who was chosen by Paramahansaji to lead his spiritual and humanitarian work. The Guru had written to Daya Mata on her birthday in 1946: "May you be born in the Cosmic Mother, and inspire all with your spiritual motherliness only—only to bring others to God by the example of your life." Indeed, Self-Realization/Yogoda Satsanga members around the world revered Sri Daya Mata as *Sanghamata* or "Mother of the Society."

India's former ambassador to the United States, Dr. Binay R. Sen, observed:

> Nowhere does [Paramahansa Yogananda's] legacy shine with more radiance than in his saintly disciple Sri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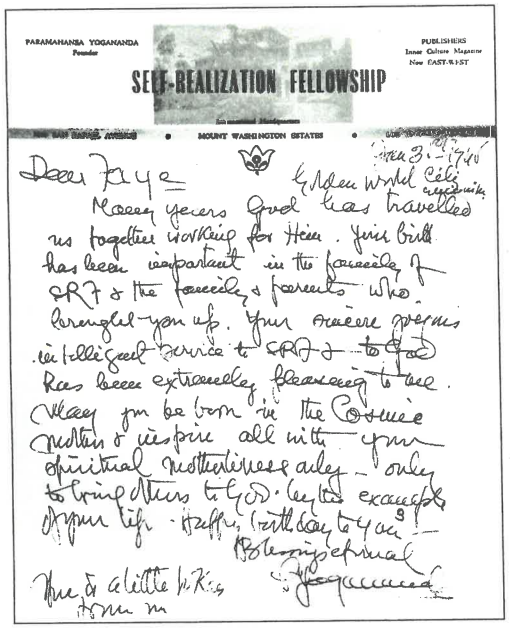
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Founder

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Now EAST-WEST

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MOUNT WASHINGTON ESTATES

Dear Daye — June 3 - 1946
Golden World Celebrating
Many years God has travelled
us together working for Him. Your birth
has been important in the founding of
SRF & the founding of parents who
brought you up. Your sincere years
intelligent service to SRF & to God
has been extremely pleasing to me.
May you be born in the Cosmic
Mother & inspire all with your
spiritual motherliness only — only
to bring others to God. By the example
of your life. With love to you —
Blessings eternal
Yogananda

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is finished,' the Master told her. 'Your work begins.'"

Daya Mata, whom he prepared to carry on in his footsteps after he would be gone. Before his passing he told her, "When I am gone, only love can take my place." Those who, like myself, were privileged to have met Paramahansaji find reflected in Daya Mataji that same spirit of divine love and compassion that so impressed me on my first visit to the Self-Realization Center almost forty years ago....It is my hope that the torch he left, which is now in the hands of Sri Daya Mata, will light the way for millions who are seeking direction for their lives.

Her Final Years

Self-Realization Fellowship grew and expanded significantly around the world under Sri Daya Mata's leadership. At the time of her passing there were more than 600 SRF/YSS temples, centers, and meditation groups, in over sixty countries; over a dozen thriving monastic communities of dedicated monks and nuns; a publishing division which oversees the publication, in many languages, of Paramahansa Yogananda's works as well as those of his monastic disciples; lecture series and classes on the teachings of Sri Yogananda in cities around the world; beautiful SRF retreats in several countries; a Worldwide Prayer Circle devoted to healing and world peace; and other spiritual services and activities.

In the nearly eighty years of her devoted service, she never sought prominence or position. Her one-pointed goal was to safeguard the purity and integrity of her Guru's teachings, to perfect within herself the qualities of a true disciple, and to reach out to all who came in search of spiritual strength and understanding. Through her single-hearted faithfulness to those goals, she has blessed and inspired countless truth-seekers the world

"'Now my work is finished,' the Master told her. 'Your work begins.'"

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over. [Watch video of Sri Daya Mata greeting SRF members at Christmastime on our website.]

Although the last years of her life were spent in seclusion, she was continuously engaged in the work of her Guru until her very last days — continuing to guide his worldwide society and working with SRF Vice President Mrinalini Mata and other monastics and members of the Board of Directors. [Watch video of Mrinalini Mata describing Sri Daya Mata on our website.] She poured forth a continuing stream of guidance, inspiration, and spiritual encouragement to the worldwide SRF/YSS family through regular articles in *Self-Realization* magazine, seasonal and bimonthly letters of spiritual guidance, and a voluminous personal correspondence. Most of her time in her closing years, however, was used in meditation and deep prayer for all those who asked her help and blessings.

"She poured forth a continuing stream of guidance, inspiration, and spiritual encouragement to the worldwide SRF/YSS family."

In an article written for the magazine about two years before her passing, Daya Mata addressed the beloved family of Paramahansa Yogananda's disciples around the world:

> My dear ones, these days I am spending most of my time in seclusion, enwrapped in the blissful love of Divine Mother and our beloved Master. In my meditations and prayers each day, I think lovingly of all of you, invoking the special help and power of God to bless your lives during these challenging times — that you may keep steadfast on the path that leads to our eternal home in Him. Such a thrill of gratitude fills my heart as I reflect on all that Master has brought to the world — it truly represents the divine hope of the coming world civilization. I urge you: Do your part. Follow the teachings; meditate

"In my meditations and prayers each day, I think lovingly of all of you, invoking the special help and power of God to bless your lives during these challenging times."

deeply each day; serve others; and throughout all your activities keep your heart and mind ever turning to the One Source of security, fulfillment, and unconditional love.

Above all, it remained her desire and goal to instill a deep sense of love for God and all God's children through daily meditation. She said:

> The ability to love purely and unconditionally comes from meditation, from being in love with God and silently conversing with Him in the language of your heart. I don't think there is a moment in my life that I am not talking to Him. I am not much concerned whether or not He talks to me. Perhaps I'm odd in thinking so. But I only know what joy comes from inwardly conversing with God, and then suddenly feeling a great thrill of divine love or bliss or wisdom pouring through my consciousness. Then I know: "Ah, Divine Mother, it is You who give that which I seek in this life." God is the only Reality; He alone is life.

Her Passing and Legacy of Divine Love

Sri Daya Mata had been given a foretaste of death as a joyous experience of divine expansion and freedom many years before her passing. Recounting her near-death experience, which occurred in 1948 during a surgical operation for a serious ailment, she said:

> Suddenly I had a wonderful experience. The entire room became filled with a soothing golden light; and the beautiful spiritual eye,* which I had seen many

*The single of eye of intuition and omnipresent perception at the Christ

times in my life through the years, became visible in my forehead, growing and growing until it seemed to fill all space. I heard the great sound of *Aum* engulfing me, pouring over my being. What joy I felt as my soul melted into the love of Divine Mother....

A Voice, emerging out of the *Aum* sound, gently said to me, "This is death. Are you ready for it?"

In that great light of the spiritual eye, I saw into the world that was ahead of me; it was filled with such joy, such communion with the Divine. In comparison, this physical world seemed so gross — burdened by darkness and filled with the heaviness of matter. Usually we do not think of it in this way because we are used to this plane of being; but if you had to choose, for example, between diamonds and rocks, it is obvious what your choice would be. This was my consciousness as I replied to the Voice: "Yes, Divine Mother! One does not come this far into the other world and then want to go back. Why would I hold on to such grossness, when this divine bliss lies ahead of me?"

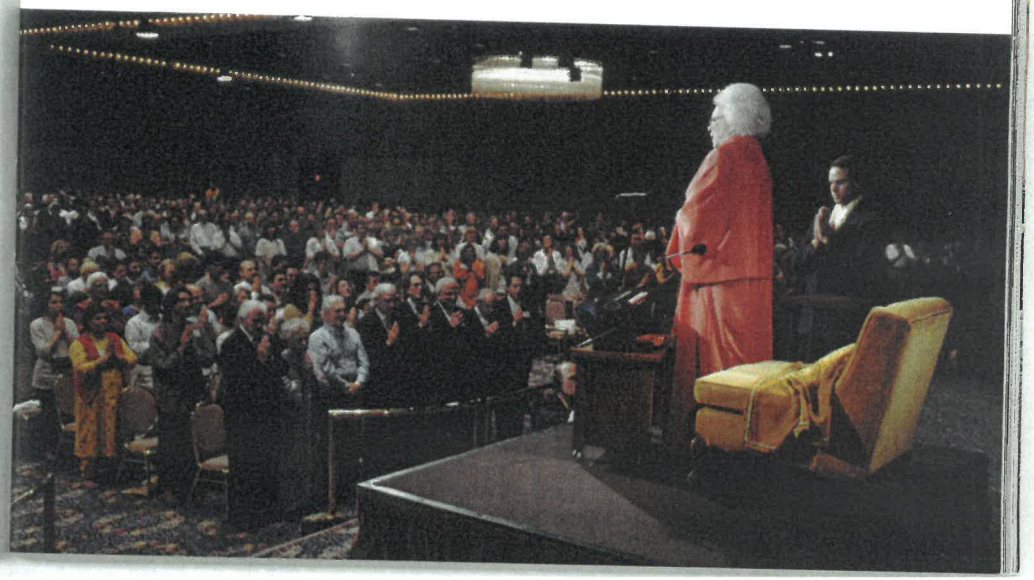
Then the Voice said so sweetly, "But if I ask you to stay for Me?" Oh! I can't tell you what those words did to me. Such a thrill of joy! "You would ask *me* to stay for You? Yes, Divine Mother. Let me serve You!" Then the Voice said—so soothingly; I can't convey to you what a soothing sensation bathed my whole consciousness — "All right, my child. Now sleep." I lost consciousness and the operation proceeded.*

Daya Mataji related that she told Paramahansaji about this experience a few days before the Guru's passing. He said to her: "Of course, that was your time to go. Many times Satan has tried to take your life. But know this: Divine Mother in this life has given you great spiritual freedom and power. No one will be able to balk you. Keep on like this to the end of life; your salvation is achieved."

In mid-November 2010, after giving more than sixty years to the selfless fulfillment of her promise to the Divine Mother to stay on earth and serve the work of God and her Guru, Daya Mataji became aware that finally the time had come for her departure from the physical body. Retaining her loving concern for others and penetrating faculties of

center (*ajna chakra*) between the eyebrows; the entryway into the ultimate states of divine consciousness. The deeply meditating devotee beholds the spiritual eye as a ring of golden light encircling a sphere of opalescent blue, and at the center, a pentagonal white star.

*Daya Mataji recounts this experience on the CD recording "Strengthening the Power of the Mind" and also in her book *Finding the Joy Within You,* pages 139–141.



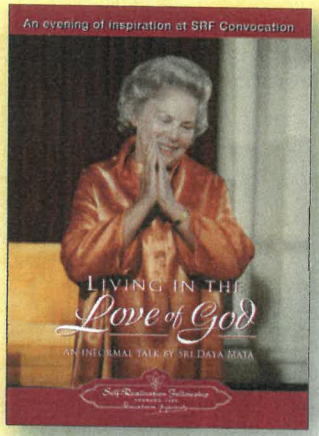
understanding until the very end, she called to her side the members of Self-Realization Fellowship's Board of Directors and other dear companions on the path, in order to bestow her final blessings and say farewell. She repeated with great emphasis what she had said many times to those around her in years past: that it was the will of God and Gurus that the Board of Directors elect Mrinalini Mata to succeed her as spiritual head of SRF/YSS.* Those who were with her in those last days described how her consciousness, her whole being, was melting in the infinite love of God and Guru, as she repeated softly to herself: "Merge in Their love, melt in Their love!" And she said again and again, referring to the dear spiritual family of SRF/YSS monastics and lay members around the world, "Tell them all how much I love them! Tell them all how much I love them!" Such was the consciousness in which she made her transition into final freedom from the mortal frame, late in the evening on Tuesday, November 30, 2010.

♣ ♣ ♣

The uplifting influence of those who have truly lived a life of unconditional devotion to God reaches far beyond their lifetime in this world. Even now, it is possible to feel Sri Daya Mata's blessings flowing out to us, guiding and encouraging us in our own spiritual search. Please join us as we unite in sending our hearts' love and gratitude to her, knowing that her divine love and compassion will be with us always. [Watch video of Sri Daya Mata on our website: "Where We Will All Meet Again."] ❑

* Before his passing, Paramahansa Yogananda specified that after the lifetime of Rajarsi Janakananda (whom he had designated to succeed him as president of SRF), all future presidents would be elected by the Board of Directors. He had already confided to close disciples regarding those who would be chosen to serve as his spiritual successors in this capacity: "God and Gurus already know who they are, and when the time comes it will be divinely revealed. There will always be at the head of this organization men and women of divine realization."

Sri Daya Mata DVDs



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A Universal Message of Love and Inspiration
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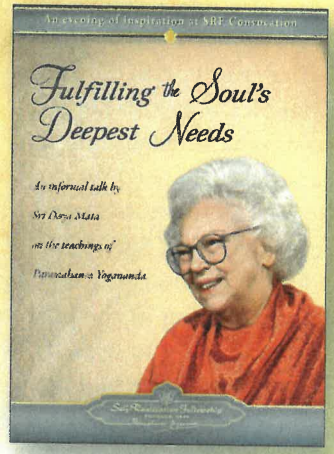
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An informal talk by Sri Daya Mata on the teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda

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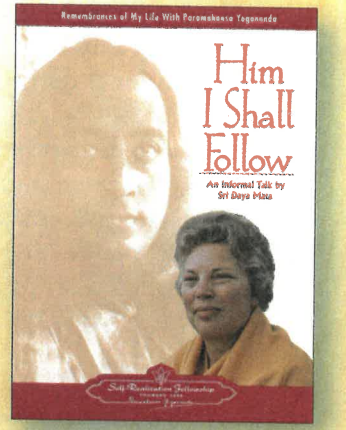

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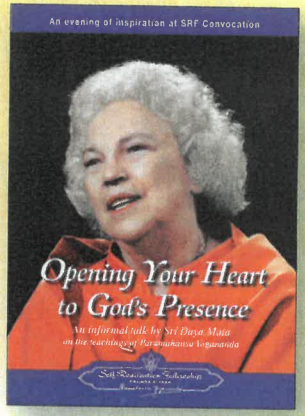
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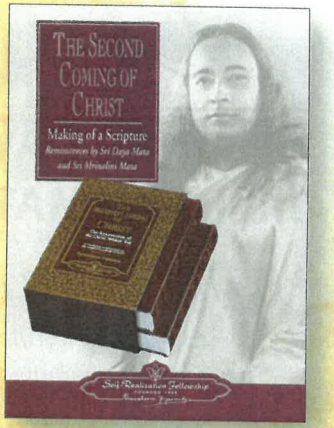

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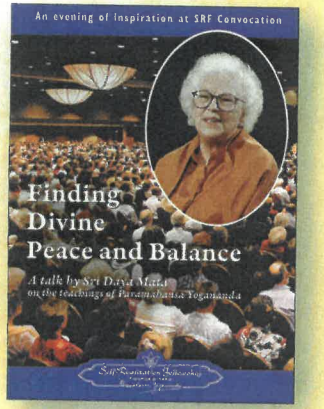
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love serve courage faith

THE FINAL DAYS OF SRI DAYA MATA

By Sri Mrinalini Mata

Eulogy given during special prayer service for SRF monastics held at the Mother Center the morning after Daya Mataji's passing, December 1, 2010, with added reminiscences from a talk on Christmas Day, 2010.

Beloved ones of Ma and Gurudeva, with my own heartfelt divine love for our Ma, and with prayerful thoughts, I offer with you, at her blessed feet, our outpouring of love and devotion and appreciation for a life that so illumined our lives these many, many years.

When we think of our Ma, we think of so many beautiful qualities, because she was so balanced. She was filled with the guidance and the example of our Gurudeva to such a degree that, even as Master was infinite in his expression, so we saw our beloved Ma in different lights as she responded to different circumstances—but always anchored in two things: Her great and all-consuming love; and her dedication to the work, to following Gurudeva's guidance, to carrying out his wishes for the mission of SRF/YSS worldwide. Those wishes were her constant thoughts, and those were what held her in

the body for these many, many years.

Think of that occasion in 1948 when it was her time to go, and Divine Mother told her, "This is death. Are you ready for it?" And Ma joyously responded: "Oh, yes; oh, yes!" And then Divine Mother said to her, "But if I ask you to stay for Me, will you stay?" she said, "Oh, Mother, of course! Yes, I will." And with that she completely surrendered her life and her will, all that she had in her heart and soul, to the will and the wishes of Divine Mother and her Gurudeva.

"She said, 'If you want to know God, you have to love God. But love is not passive; it is active. When you love God, then you want to express that love by service.'"

Through all these years that is how she has lived her life: "Not what I want, not what any of you want; we must always ask ourselves, 'What does Master want? What would he do?'" That gave us great light which illumined our Guru's footsteps and the path that he hewed for us in serving this work.

Then think further of what gave Ma the ability—when she was already freed from this troublesome world, already enwrapped in the arms and the love of Divine Mother, and Divine Mother said, "But if I ask you to stay, for Me?"—to answer with complete willingness and surrender, "Oh, yes, Mother!" That was love; and that love was her nourishment, spiritually her whole being, these many, many years. What beautiful, inspiring memories we all have of the times we were privileged to be with her in meditation, and we would hear her whispering, again and again: "O Divine Mother, Divine Mother, I love You, I love You, I love You. I want nothing else. I just want to love You."

If we love Ma—if we want to say to her how much we love her, how much we appreciate the great joy, the great inspiration and illumination that her life has given to ours—there is

only one way, and she reminded us of that again and again: Love God. As Gurudeva said to her: "Be so drunk with the love of God night and day that you won't know anything but God; and give that love to all."

The Motto She Lived By

Ma had in her room a little sign that says: *Love. Serve. Courage. Faith.* That was her motto, her *mantram.* On almost every occasion that we saw her during this last phase of her life, she would point to those words. "You see that? That is the whole sum and substance of what I have tried to live by."

And she would explain: Love means "Love God." She said, "I knew from the very earliest time I was seeking God that the answer was love. If you want to know God, you have to love God. But love is not passive; it is active. When you love God, then you want to express that love by service." That is the example she set: From the earliest hours of the dawn till the latest hours of night, Ma was busy serving God's work and serving His devotees throughout the world.

And what gives the ability, the inspiration, to love and to serve? Faith—faith in God, faith in the words and the example of Gurudeva; and also courage—courage to accept the Divine Will, courage to surrender to the Divine Will your heart, mind, soul, strength. To surrender means to be in tune with the will and with the love and guidance of God and Guru.

Her Final Days

Those two essential qualities of our beloved Ma, her love for God and her desire to serve, were there to her very last days, hours, moments—so much so that even when God and Guru were opening that mystic door of death for her, we could see that she was still of that nature. On one side she was feeling so strongly the pull of Divine Mother and Gurudeva's love, and wanting just to merge into that. But her dedication, her surrender to Divine Mother and Master

as the one who would carry on Their work, never wavered in the slightest. She would speak of her concern, her interest, her love, for this blessed work of Gurudeva, and of all the things that yet needed to be done; and she wanted to participate in that. And we would remind her, "Ma, you have fulfilled all that Divine Mother and Master have asked of you. They are waiting to take you. Now, just relax and let the Divine Will free you from these responsibilities. Your work here is done. You will serve God and Guru in an even greater way when you merge in Their omnipresence, when you merge in Their love."

Once toward the end when talking to her along these lines, I said: "Ma, the only thing you have wanted all of your life is just to love God and to feel that response of Divine Mother. Now just melt in that light, in that love of Divine Mother." And how sweetly she just closed her eyes and kept repeating, again and again: "Melt in that light, melt in that light; merge in Their love, merge in Their love."

Some of the other exchanges we had during those final days:

We often shared with each other our memories of being together with Master; and how, as one by one those dear ones in his inner circle of disciples went through that mystical door, we were left. And Ma said, "You give me such joy in sharing our memories of Master."

She also said, "Why the suffering and experience I went through yesterday? I'm grateful for it. But I don't want to go through it again." This was during that period when she was so ready to leave the body, but was still wanting to stay and do more, to go on serving the work and see to its future.

I reminded her that she had surrendered body, mind, and soul to Divine Mother and Master, and that They had used her as Their instrument—to help countless souls who had sought her intercession to alleviate their suffering, and to further Master's work; and that just as Master also suffered by taking the karma of others and shouldering the burdens

of God's work, so Ma was by her sacrifice helping God and Master.

She replied, "Yes, that makes sense—helping others by assisting with their karma. Every day after reading so many letters from those suffering terribly, I would go to my altar and pray for them. I feel such love." With the sweetest motherly expression, she put her hand over her heart and lapsed into silence.

"How sweetly she just closed her eyes and kept repeating, again and again: 'Melt in that light, melt in that light; merge in Their love, merge in Their love.'"

I said to her, "Ma, you should take some rest now."

She said, "Yes, I'll let you go now. But come back later. I haven't finished yet." That was our Ma!

In the evening when I entered her room, she spoke sweetly of her love for me. She placed her hand over her heart.

"Give me your hand," she said. She grasped it very firmly. "Master blesses you. He gives you his wisdom and love, his wisdom and love. Have faith and courage. Master will guide and give you strength. Master guide you. Master's wishes, Master's wishes—follow Master's wishes."

I thanked Ma for all that she did in recording Master's guidance, and assured her we will follow the example she has set in guiding the work these many years.

She said, "I know you will follow his ideals. You have my trust in that."

She took my hand, kissed it, and placed her hand with mine in it to her forehead, to my forehead, and then to her forehead.

Her Release Into Omnipresence

So it was, dear ones, that she gradually let go of her sense of responsibility, born of a heart so full of divine love for

"If you want to express love, reverence, appreciation for our unique and now ever-living Ma, let it be with that commitment: 'Love, serve, courage, faith.'"

all of us, so that Divine Mother and Gurudeva could lift her through that mystic door, and free her soul.

As I dwelt on Ma's entry into that glorious state, I could visualize and mentally conceive of what joy it was for her just to melt in that love of Divine Mother—as she had prayed throughout her life and experienced in *samadhi* many times, but this time with no thought of having to come back to her responsibilities. And I thought also of her great rejoicing in the love, the blessing, with which Gurudeva surrounded her at that reunion, and how she would prostrate herself and *pranam* at his feet. I could just feel that surely all of the dear divine ones who we love and who have followed after Master were there. The details of such mergence are not for our mortal eyes, but they were a full and divine experience for our blessed Ma.

Let me read to you something written by Guruji. I feel this describes what she now is, and how we now know her:

> O devotee, a time will come when your Self will lose all its earthliness and become eternal light, ever-burning radium, emanating infinite joy and understanding. Your soul, sailing through the luminous astral region behind the physical world with its millions of temporary guests, will bless all earth-dwellers among whom it passes, silently stirring and awakening them through the whispers of conscience. As your soul's little joy is transmuted into the limitless bliss of Spirit, it reverberates a liberating chant through all responsive, truth-seeking hearts. Your untrammeled spirit ultimately reaches the boundlessness of omnipresence, the core of Cosmic Consciousness, wherein the little body-confined ego vanishes, having become expanded into the Eternal Oneness....wherein the little self transcends all mental circumscriptions of body-consciousness, creed, and race, and merges as the greater Self into universal brotherhood with all life; and thence attains everlasting union with the One Life.

"Tell Them All How Much I Love Them"

As India's scriptures assure us: "From joy we came; in joy we live, move, and have our being; and in that sacred joy we will one day melt again." For Ma that joy, that bliss, had just one aspect: divine love—love for God; giving that love to God. Now she is receiving it fully. That is the fulfillment of joy.

She said, in those last days: "All work together, all be united; serve this work, love God." I assured her, as I'm sure many did who were in her presence these last days, that this is our dedication. That is the greatest expression—the only expression—she would want from those who love God in these sacred ashrams and who have been chosen to serve Master's mission. If you want to express love, reverence, appreciation for our unique and now ever-living Ma, let it be with that commitment: "*Love, serve, courage, faith.*"

Again and again in her final days, whenever we were in her presence, she would always say: "Tell them all how much I love them. Tell them all how much I love them." Feel that love, that inspiration, which holds us in the thought of Gurudeva, in the love of and attunement with him. That was her constant prayer for us. May we live, move, and have our being in that attunement with Gurudeva — following the path he has set before us, filled with the joy and the inspiration and the light of Ma's example, which she lived so perfectly throughout these many years that she gave herself, her soul, to following in Gurudeva's footsteps. When we follow her example, we are following Gurudeva.

So, dear ones, much love from Ma. *"Tell them all how*

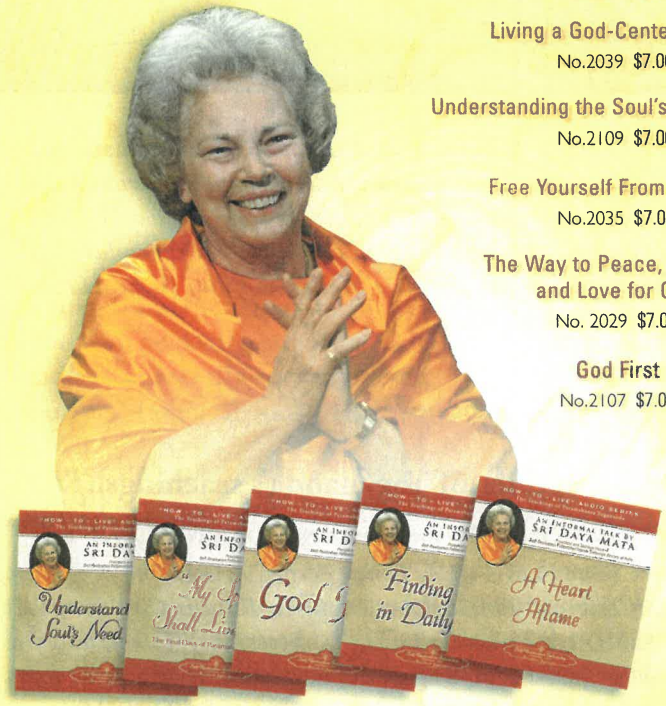
much I love them." Hold that in your heart. And though now she is not in the body, know that that little soul, so enlarged by divine love, has merged in the Divine Omnipresence. Whenever we think of her and of her example and of her exhortations to us to follow Gurudeva's guidance, his spiritual principles and ideals and standards, we know that in her omnipresence she is with us still—even more, perhaps, than before, when she was limited by this world. That love, that inspiration and strength she has imparted to us these many years, and will never cease to impart to us, will always be there. We just have to reach out and remember our beloved Ma and follow her example of devotion, dedication, and service to God and to Gurudeva and to Their work.

"Whenever we think of her and of her example and of her exhortations to us to follow Gurudeva's guidance, his spiritual principles and ideals and standards, we know that in her omnipresence she is with us still."

God love you, dear ones. I know that He does. I know that His Love is the great unifying, strengthening force—the only divine force that unifies in this universe and in the beyond. Let us all live and serve in that consciousness—meditate, love and help one another, and give that surrender of our souls to God with full faith and courage—so that we walk together, united, in that joy, in that love.

God bless us all. Master bless us all. Jai Guru, Jai Guru! Jai Ma, Jai Ma! ❑

Sri Daya Mata CDs



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Media Coverage

OF SRI DAYA MATA'S PASSING

News of the passing on November 30, 2010 of SRF Sanghamata *and President Sri Daya Mata has reached millions of people around the globe as a result of widespread press coverage from the world's leading news organizations, who have paid tribute to her exemplary life. Common themes focused on Sri Daya Mata's humility, dedicated service to others, and divine compassion.*

"A guiding light..." *—The New York Times*

"A faithful interpreter of Yogananda's teachings..."
—Los Angeles Times

The *New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Forbes, AARP, The Oregonian, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Philadelphia Inquirer, Kansas City Star, Salt Lake Tribune, San Diego Union Tribune, St. Petersburg Times,* and the Associated Press are just a sampling of the many online and print news organizations and wires reporting on the passing of Sri Daya Mata.

The *Los Angeles Times,* whose story on Daya Mata was syndicated to newspapers across the country, included comments from noted religion scholar J. Gordon Melton, director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion and author of the *Encyclopedia of American Religions,* who said, "[Sri Daya Mata] chose to spend her time projecting her teacher rather than herself"—a strong testament to her humility and dedicated service to humankind.

"An inspiration...who touched many lives..."
—Hindu Statesman Rajan Zed

Indian print and online news sources both in the U.S. and abroad featured stories on Sri Daya Mata, ranging from the *Times of India* to *India West* to DailyIndia.com. The latter referenced distinguished Hindu statesman Rajan Zed's description of Sri Daya Mata: "an inspiration and full of divine love who touched many lives on the spiritual journey."

LA Yoga, Horizons Magazine, Prana Journal, Integral Yoga magazine and *Wisdom Quarterly: American Buddhist Journal* were among the spirituality publications that acknowledged the longtime leader of SRF. Additional tributes honoring Sri Daya Mata are being planned for future editions of various magazines that cover spirituality and Yoga.

National Public Radio's KPCC-FM (Los Angeles) interviewed Brother Chidananda on Sri Daya Mata's life and accomplishments, and featured on its website an audio recording of the interview as well as a print news summary and separate video interview. KPCC reporter Shirley Jahad said that Daya Mata "was noteworthy for avoiding the kind of fame many spiritual leaders seek." The radio broadcast included an interview with Christopher Chapple, professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University, who said that Daya Mata will be "remembered as an inspiration for those who seek in their life to be in service to others."

"A remarkable woman who dedicated her life to the service of others..." —Twitter post

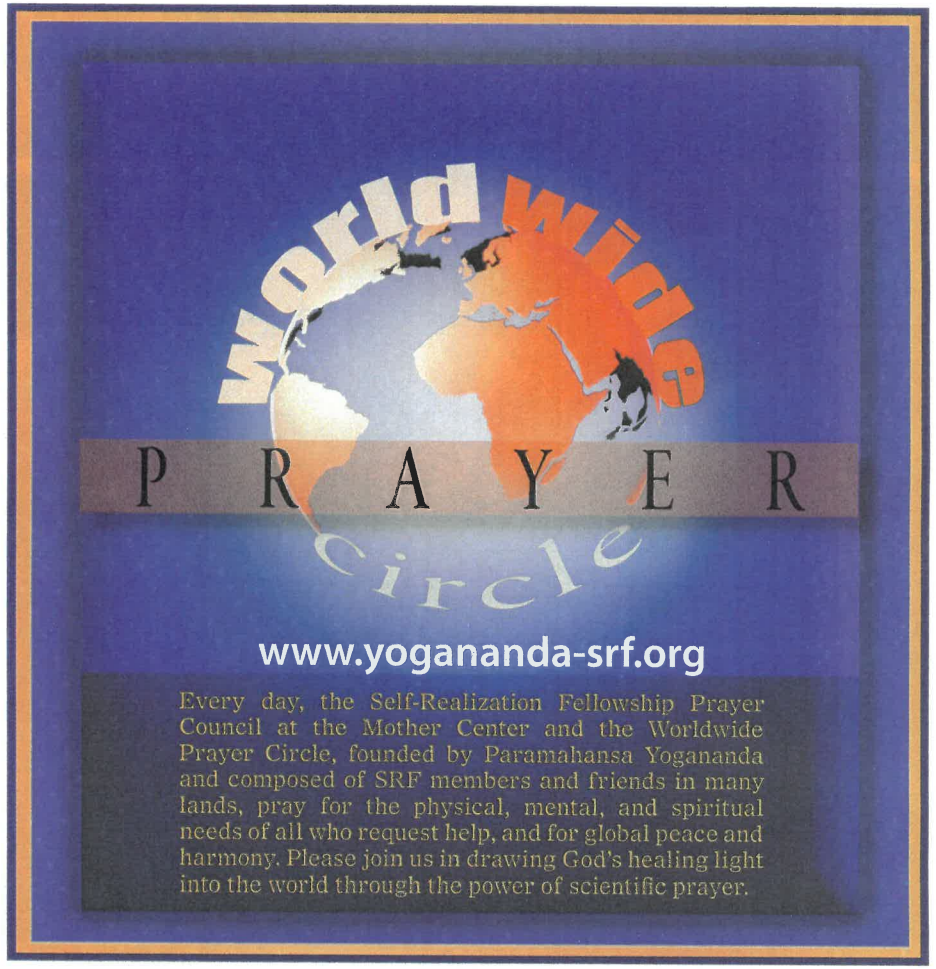
News of this historic occasion was also widely covered on websites, blogs, online forums, and social media networks — with heartfelt tributes on such sites as Triumph of the Spirit, Open to Healing, BellaOnline and Beliefnet.

One interesting blog entry was that of Vedic Maths Forum, which highlighted Daya Mataji's instrumentality in the historic visit to America of His Holiness the Shankaracharya of Puri (whose many distinguished accomplishments included a volume explicating the advanced mathematics of ancient Indian scriptures).

Hundreds of tweets appeared on Twitter, with retweets of media coverage and details of the memorial services. Online news aggregators shared coverage appearing in the many media outlets that reported on the events. And, Facebook groups created by members, friends, and SRF centers around the world paid homage to SRF's beloved *sangha-mata,* acknowledging her as "a great spiritual mother."

One of the most touching tributes came from a neighbor of SRF — a resident of Mt. Washington — who is not a member and never had the opportunity to meet Sri Daya Mata, but certainly captured her spirit. Author BJ Gallagher, in a recent article appearing in *The Huffington Post,* wrote:

> "When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt," someone wise once said. It seems an apt description of the life of Sri Daya Mata, who led the Self-Realization Fellowship for the past fifty-five years....
>
> I didn't learn the facts of [Sri Daya Mata's] life until I read them in the *LA Times* after she died recently. But I didn't have to know the details of her life to get a sense of who she was. I already knew her by her work.
>
> I knew her spirit in the happy, friendly faces of the monks and nuns who greeted me on my morning walks. I knew her in the beautiful books and calendars the SRF publishes. I knew her in my strolls across the SRF grounds to take in the view and the times my dog and I would play on their lovely lawns. I knew her in my quiet moments of meditation in the SRF garden, when I acknowledged her unseen presence with a simple prayer of thanks.
>
> Sri Daya Mata, the neighbors of Mt. Washington hardly knew you — but yet we did. We knew you through the peaceful, serene spirit of your community and the special energy we feel when we're around your followers and in your gardens. Thank you for being our neighbor; thank you for making Mt. Washington your home; thank you for your contribution to the world. Your work speaks for itself. ❑


World Wide
PRAYER
Circle
www.yogananda-srf.org
Every day, the Self-Realization Fellowship Prayer Council at the Mother Center and the Worldwide Prayer Circle, founded by Paramahansa Yogananda and composed of SRF members and friends in many lands, pray for the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of all who request help, and for global peace and harmony. Please join us in drawing God's healing light into the world through the power of scientific prayer.

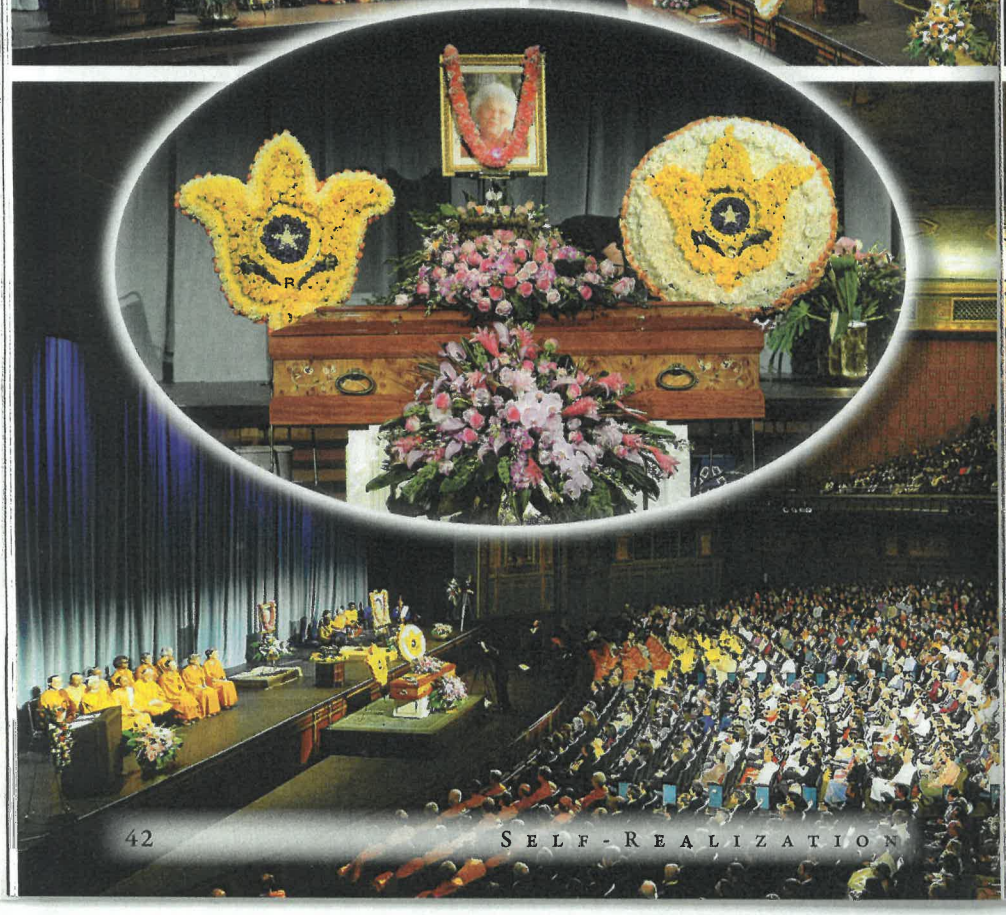
Memorial Service for Sri Daya Mata

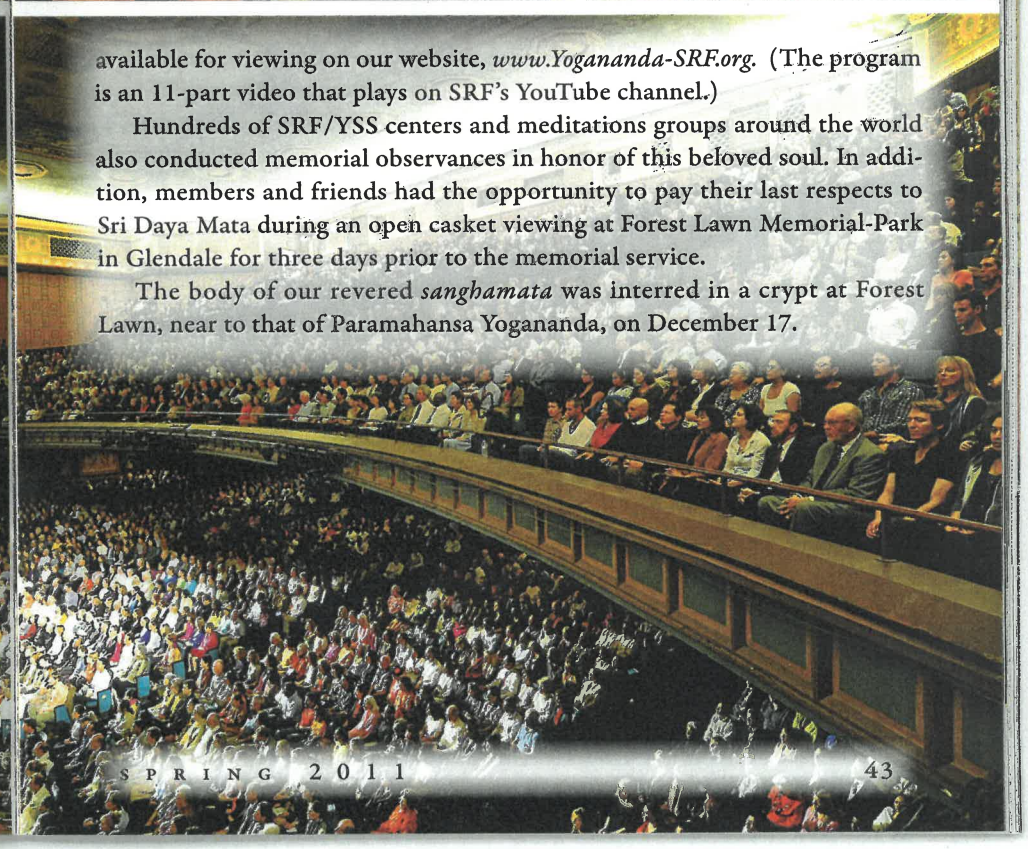
Thousands of members and friends of Self-Realization Fellowship/Yogoda Satsanga Society of India from all over the world joined the monks and nuns of SRF at a memorial service to honor the life of our beloved president and *sanghamata,* Sri Daya Mata on December 12 at the Civic Auditorium in Pasadena, California.

The inspiring 2½-hour event was captured in high-definition video, and is available for viewing on our website, *www.Yogananda-SRF.org.* (The program is an 11-part video that plays on SRF's YouTube channel.)

Hundreds of SRF/YSS centers and meditations groups around the world also conducted memorial observances in honor of this beloved soul. In addition, members and friends had the opportunity to pay their last respects to Sri Daya Mata during an open casket viewing at Forest Lawn Memorial-Park in Glendale for three days prior to the memorial service.

The body of our revered *sanghamata* was interred in a crypt at Forest Lawn, near to that of Paramahansa Yogananda, on December 17.





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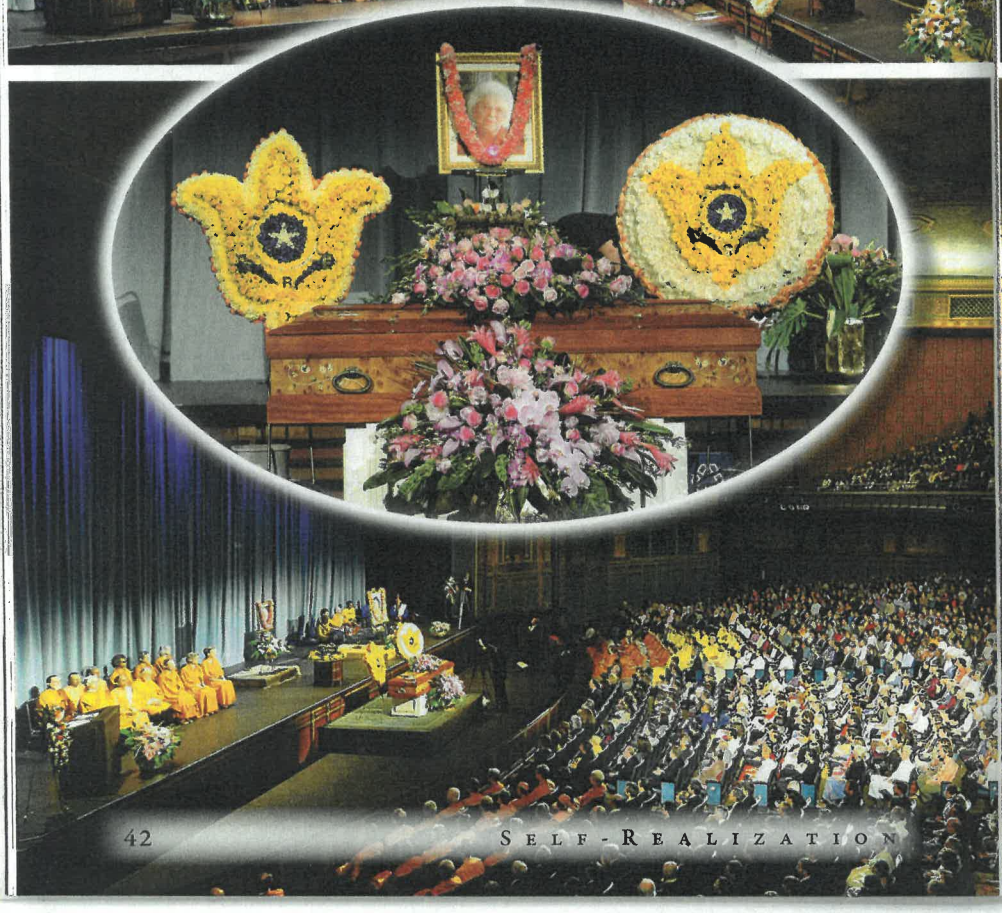

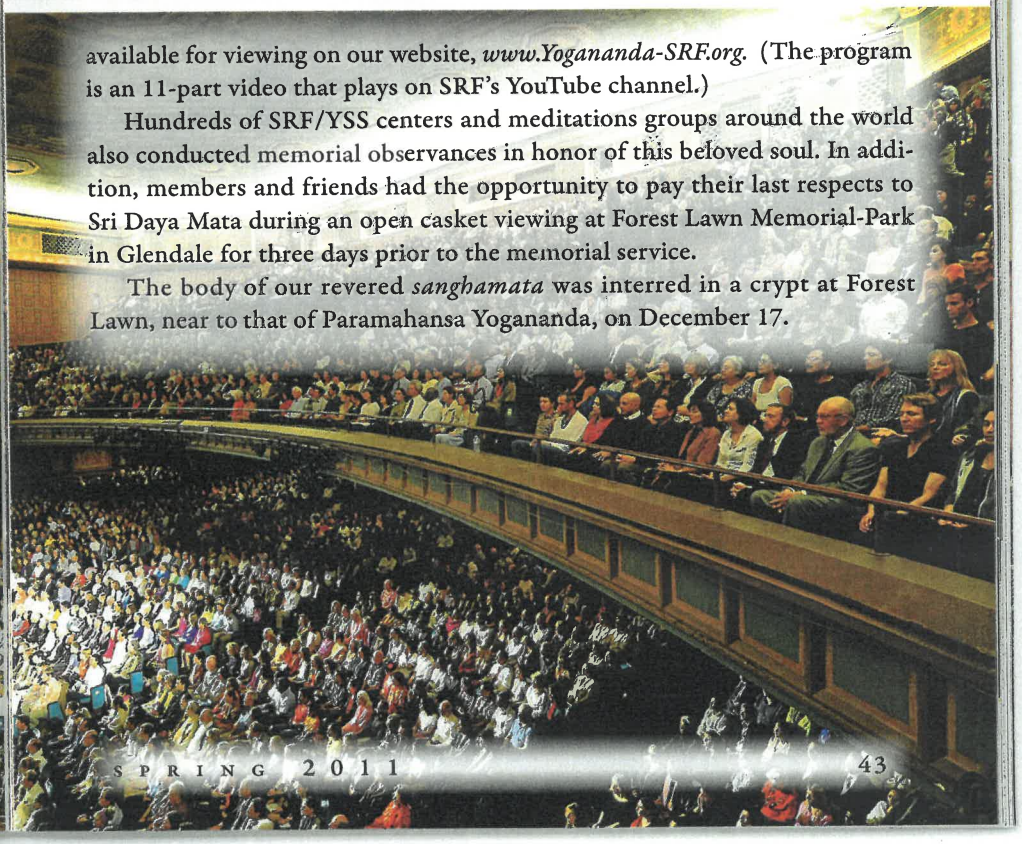

Self-Realization Magazine

CD Series

A TRIBUTE OF LOVE TO Sri Daya Mata

Excerpts from talks given by Brother Anandamoy, Sri Mrinalini Mata, and Sri Daya Mata at the 50th anniversary celebration of Daya Mata's entry into Paramahansa Yogananda's ashram as a monastic disciple, November 20, 1981

About the enclosed CD recording....

Sri Daya Mata met Paramahansa Yogananda in 1931 in Salt Lake City. On November 19, 1931, she arrived at the Self-Realization Fellowship International Headquarters atop Mt. Washington in Los Angeles, to begin her life as one of his first monastic disciples.

To honor Daya Mataji on the fiftieth anniversary of her entering the ashram, Self-Realization Fellowship monastics gathered at the Mother Center on November 20, 1981, for a joyous "tribute of love" to our revered president and *sanghamata*. A film of this historic event has been shown at past SRF Convocations. In this special memorial issue of *Self-Realization* magazine, we are pleased to present an audio recording of the main talks given on that occasion, to convey something of the tributes and reverential honor accorded her throughout the years and at the time of her passing.

The CD begins with a short talk by Brother Anandamoy. Next, Sri Mrinalini Mata shares some of the many tributes that had been sent to Sri Daya Mata from around the world for her anniversary. Then, in the main talk on this recording, Sri Daya Mata herself speaks very movingly of her years as a disciple of Paramahansaji — giving an inspiring personal glimpse of her God-imbued consciousness of divine love, humility, and inner strength that made her so beloved to thousands worldwide.

The CD ends with the monks and nuns singing to Daya Ma a special chant, "Jaya Jaya Ma," composed for her by Brahmacharini Mirabai of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India to honor the qualities of the Divine Mother that were so tangibly incarnate in the life of Sri Daya Mata:

Jaya jaya Ma, namo, jaya jaya Ma!
Victory to Divine Mother. I bow to You!

Dayamoyi Ma, kripamoyi Ma, jyotimoyi Ma, premamoyi Ma, shantimoyi Ma, namo, shantimoyi Ma!
Compassion-permeated Mother, mercy-permeated Mother, light-permeated Mother, love-permeated Mother, peace-permeated Mother, I bow to You!

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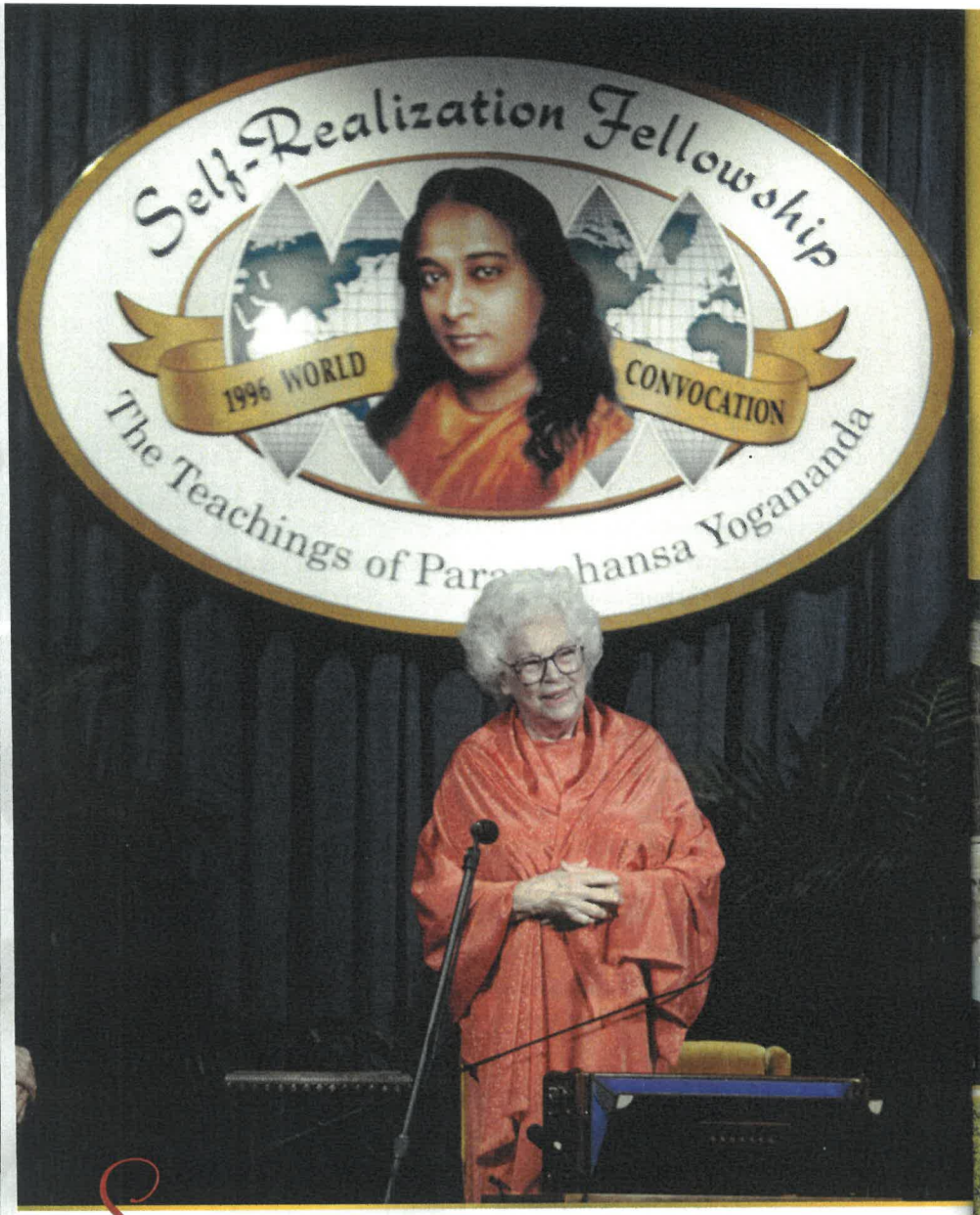
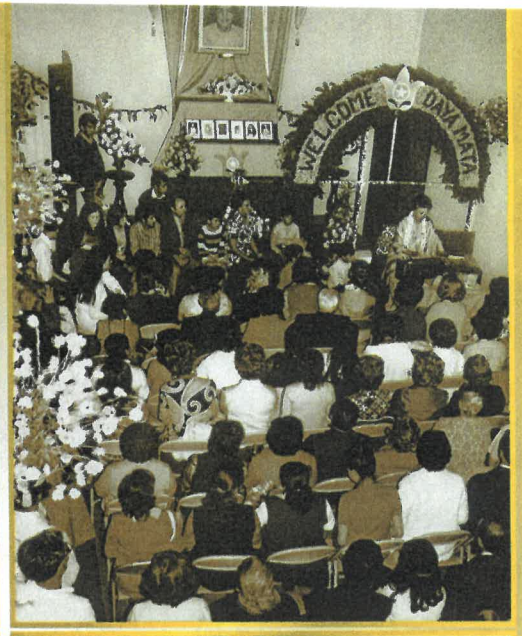


Sanghamata

Mother of the Society

THROUGH THE YEARS IN PHOTOS...

Sri Daya Mata addresses Self-Realization Fellowship World Convocation, 1996 ***(above)*** and 1975 ***(upper right)***. ***(Lower right)*** Daya Mataji leads SRF monks and nuns in devotional procession at the Mother Center, January 5, 1993, in honor of Paramahansa Yogananda's birth centennial.

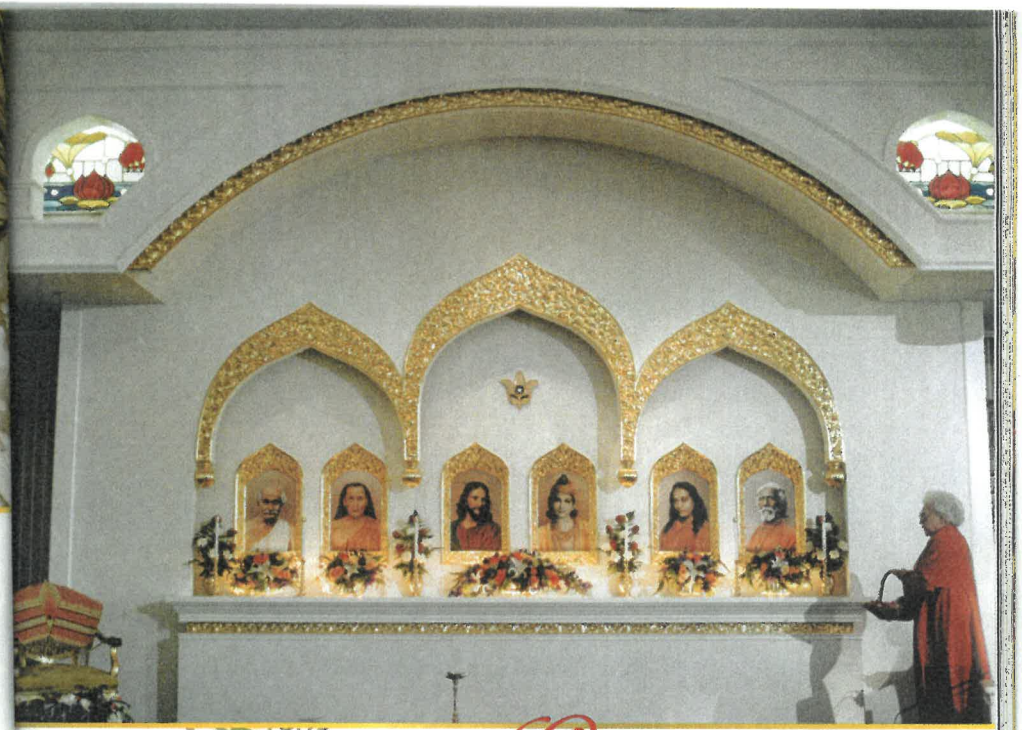


(Left) With Dr. M. W. Lewis, vice president of SRF until his passing in 1960. *(Right)* With India's prime minister Indira Gandhi at the Prime Minister's residence in New Delhi, 1972. *(Below)* Greeting children from YSS schools in Ranchi, 1972.

(Top left) Enjoying Christmas decorations, Mother Center, 1997. *(Top right)* *Satsanga* at SRF Mexico City Center, 1971. *(Above)* Presides at groundbreaking for SRF Phoenix Temple, 1970. *(Right)* With Kadari, a 400-pound Bengal tiger, Mother Center, 1999.

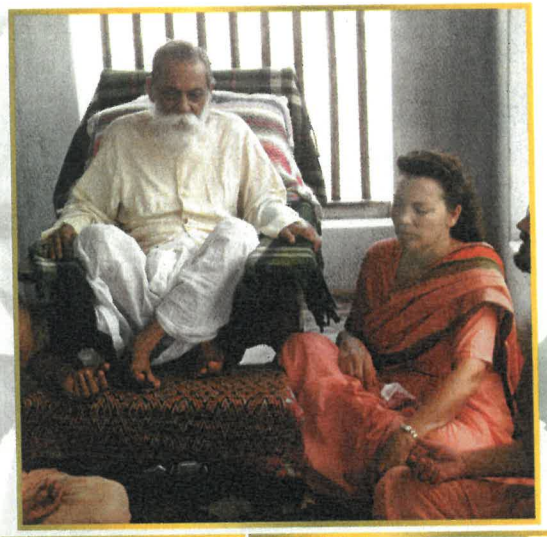
(Above) In blissful *samadhi*-communion, SRF Mother Center, 1968. *(Below)* With Mrinalini Mata, breaking ground for new nuns' ashram at the Mother Center, 1966.

(Top) With Yogacharya J. M. Cuaron of SRF Mexico City Center, and Mr. Echeguran, Durga Mata, Mukti Mata, Brother Anandamoy; SRF Mother Center, 1961. *(Above left)* Garlanded in honor of her arrival at Ranchi, 1972. *(Above right)* At SRF Mother Center with His Holiness the Shankaracharya of Puri during the pontiff's historic SRF-sponsored visit to America, 1958.



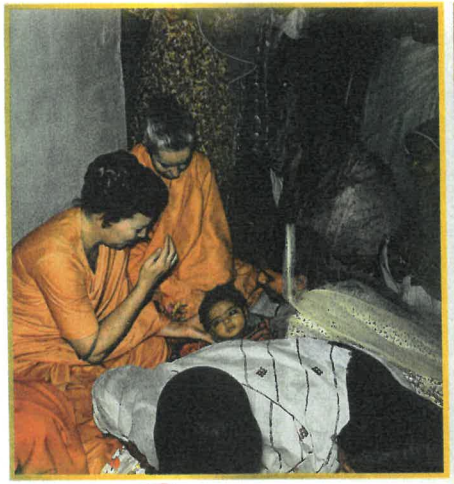
(Opposite page, top to bottom) Dedicating new SRF Publications Center, Los Angeles, 1991. Bestowing the Guru's blessing at Kriya Yoga initiation during 1969 Europe tour to London, Munich, Stuttgart, Cologne, Berlin, Vienna, Zurich, Milan, Rome, and Paris. Greeting Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Weaver and other participants at Christmas *satsanga*, 1976. India, 1967. Ranchi, 1972. *(Above)* Consecrating new temple at SRF Lake Shrine, 1996. *(Left)* By the ocean below SRF Encinitas Hermitage and Retreat, 1968.

With Sanyal Mahasaya, disciple of Lahiri Mahasaya, Kolkata, 1959. *(Below)* Honored in Simla, 1959. *(Below right)* Garlanded upon arrival in New Delhi with Ananda Mata, 1972.



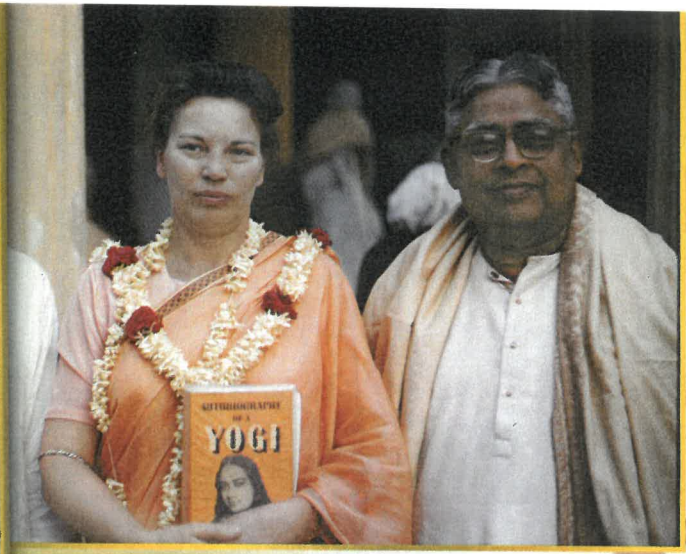
With Srimati Purnamoyee Sarkar (Thamu), youngest sister of Paramahansa Yogananda, 1959

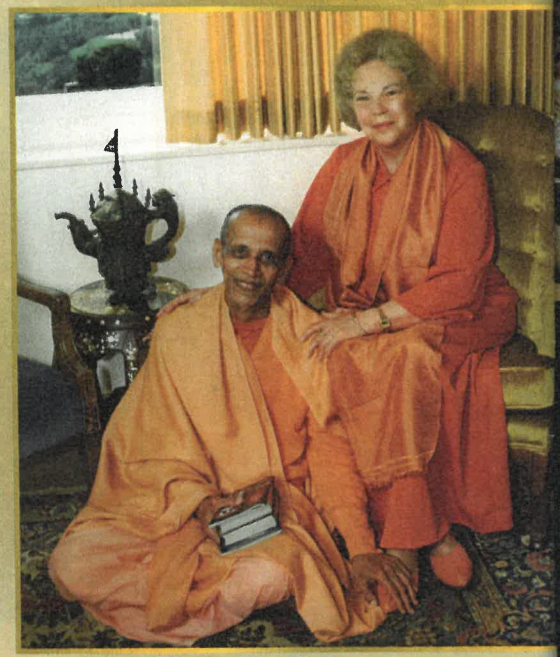
(Above) Kashmir, 1961. *(Left)* Carried by elephant into Puri, an honor traditionally accorded prominent visiting spiritual leaders.



(Above) A mother brings her child to be blessed, Simla, 1961. *(Right)* Meditating in front of portrait of Paramahansa Yogananda, SRF Mother Center, 1980. *(Below)* Ranchi, 1973.

(Top) With Ananda Moyi Ma at her ashram in Varanasi, 1959. *(Left)* *Satsanga* at SRF Mother Center on eve of departure for visit to SRF Centers in Europe, 1969. *(Below left)* In Kashmir with Ananda Mata, 1972. *(Below right)* Speaking at 1996 SRF World Convocation, Los Angeles.

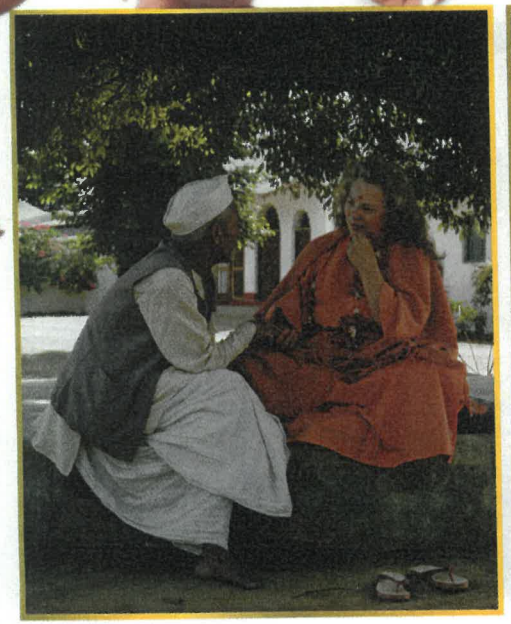




(This page, top to bottom) With Swami Sivananda, founder of the Divine Life Society, Rishikesh, 1959; and *(bottom)* Swami Chidananda, his successor as president of the Divine Life Society, SRF Mother Center, 1986.
(Opposite page, top to bottom) With Paramahansaji's cousin and YSS vice president, Sri Prabhas C. Ghosh. Making friends with a snake, Varanasi, 1959. With Jitendra Muzumdar, Paramahansaji's childhood friend and companion in "Two Penniless Boys in Brindaban" about whom he wrote in *Autobiography of a Yogi,* Chapter 11.

(Above) With Paramahansa-ji's nephew, Biswanath Ghosh, and family, Mother Center, 2003. *(Above right)* With Swami Shantananda and YSS General Secretary Sri Soven Roy, and Sri and Srimati Jha, Mother Center, 1991. *(Below left) Arati* ceremony honoring Daya Mata, Ranchi, 1972. *(Below right)* Greeting boys of YSS school in Ranchi.

With Ananda Mata and SRF members in Tokyo, 1964, during one of her three trips to Japan

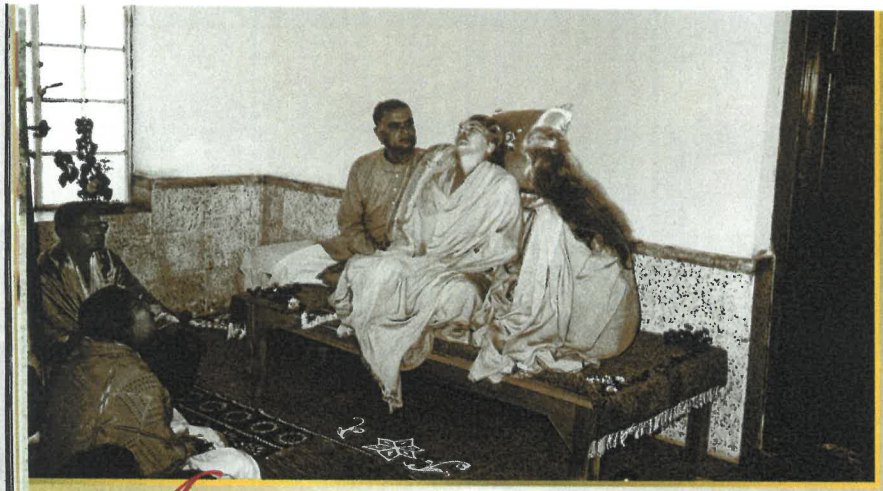


(Above) Informal *satsanga,* Ranchi, 1972. *(Left)* At SRF Headquarters with Ravi Shankar and family, 1994; and *(below)* George Harrison, 1998.

(Above) Viewing the eternal Himalayan snows, 1972, with Ananda Mata and Swamis Shantananda, Sharanananda, and Achalananda.

(Far left) At SRF How-to-Live Youth Program for boys, 1978. *(Left)* Mother Center, 2000. *(Below)* Daya Mata presides at 1970 Convocation banquet with some of the direct disciples and others who helped her serve Paramahansaji's SRF work after his passing: *(left to right)* Brother Achalananda, Brother Dharmananda, Yogacharya Oliver Black, Brother Bhaktananda, Brother Mokshananda, Mrs. Gerry Weaver, Brother Premamoy, Brother Anandamoy, Swami Shyamananda, Sri Daya Mata, Mr. Dennis Weaver, Mrinalini Mata, Durga Mata, Ananda Mata, Shraddha Mata, Mrs. Mildred Lewis, Sahaja Mata, Uma Mata, Meera Mata.

(Above) While listening to devotional *bhajans* chanted by Sri and Srimati Sen, Daya Mata enters *samadhi*-communion with the Divine. *(Right)* Blessing Swami Shyamananda. *(Below)* *Satsanga* at Palpara, West Bengal, 1973. *(Opposite page)* In deep meditation with Sri and Srimati Sen, Ranchi, 1961.



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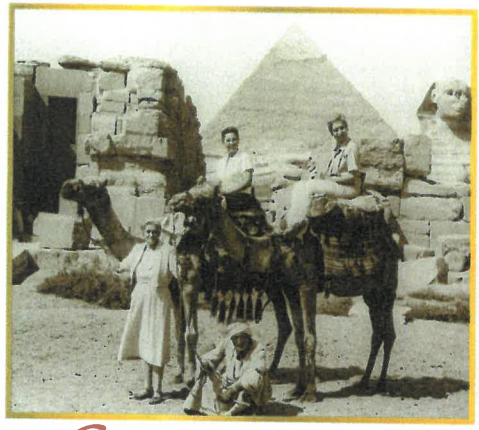

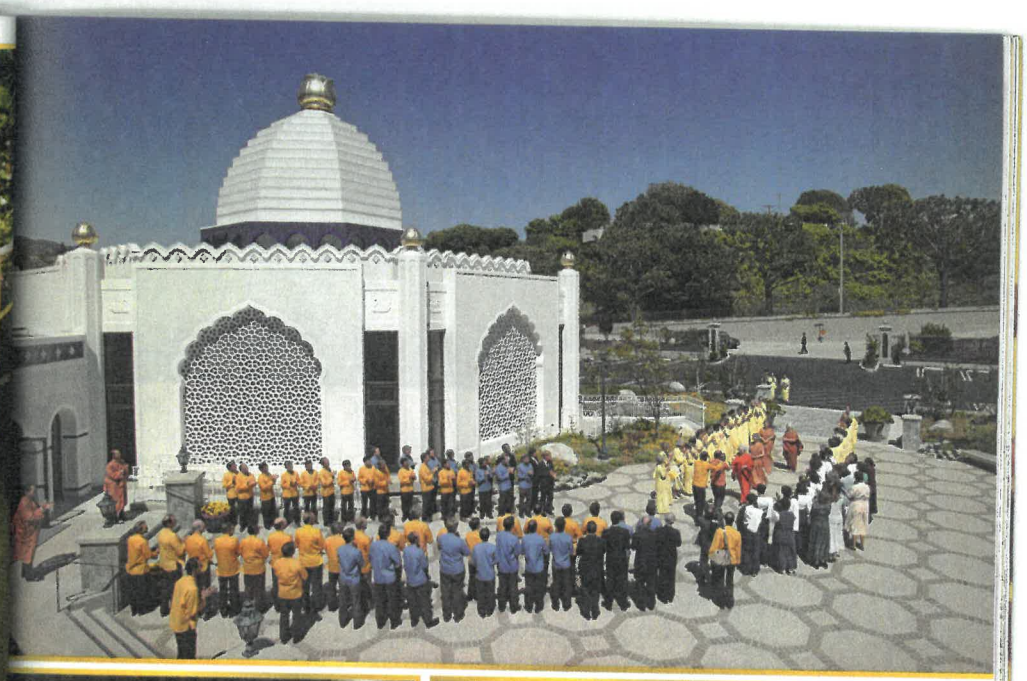

(Above) Egypt, 1958. *(Right)* At SRF Lake Shrine with Mrinalini Mata, and Brothers Ramananda and Anandamoy, 1992. *(Below)* During 2004 gathering with monastics, unveiling with Mrinalini Mata the newly published book by Paramahansaji: *The Second Coming of Christ*—one of the works (including *Autobiography of a Yogi*), that Daya Mata and Ananda Mata typed while the Guru dictated his words to them.

(Top) SRF monastics with Sri Daya Mata at consecration of new temple, SRF Lake Shrine, 1996. *(Above)* Greeting Mr. and Mrs. James Slavos and C. Richard Wright, Christmas 1975. *(Left)* 1983 Convocation, Los Angeles.

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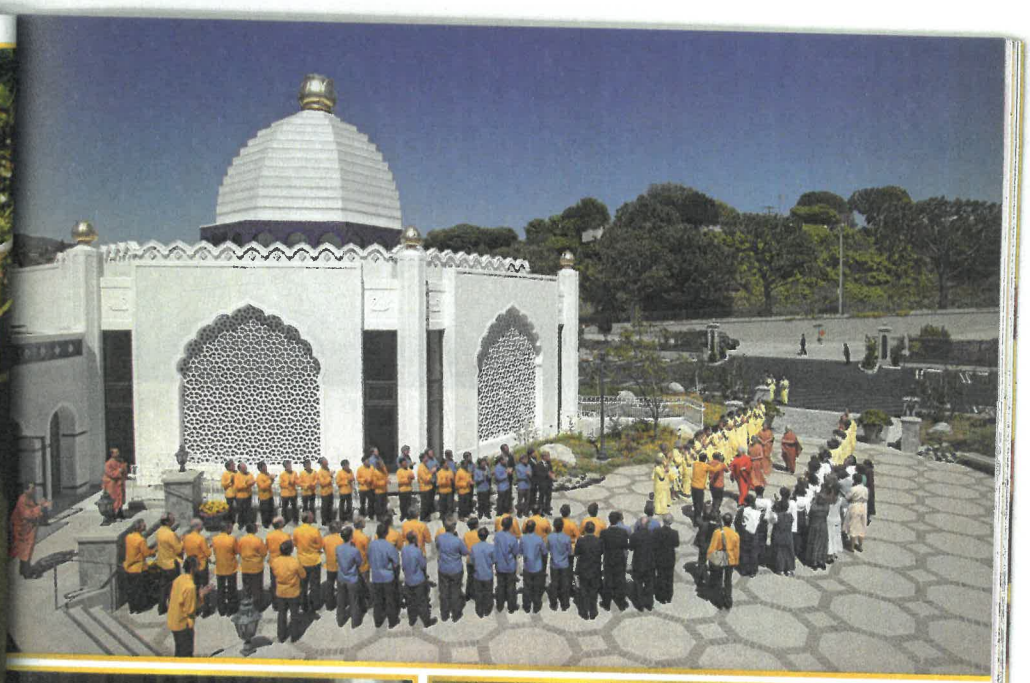

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Tributes to Sri Daya Mata

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Following Sri Daya Mata's passing, thousands of messages—emails, letters, and phone calls—poured in to the Mother Center from well-wishers and friends around the world. Some devotees reminisced about inspiration from meetings with Ma over the years, but there were also many from those who had never met her in person yet still felt a close connection to her through inner communion.

The excerpts presented here provide a glimpse of the great scope of people's personal experiences with this beloved spiritual leader, yet all reflect a unified theme of the unconditional love and compassion that were the essence of Sri Daya Mata.

Chief Minister of the State of Jharkhand, India, Sri Arjun Munda: "It is a matter of heartfelt grief that Sri Sri Daya Mata is not in our midst anymore. This is an irreparable loss to the Indian spiritual community. It is said that saints do not die but merely discard their mortal forms of their own free will to merge in the Supreme. Such souls expand into the whole cosmos, crossing beyond the limited boundaries of the human body.

"Fully imbibing and manifesting ancient Indian spiritual ideals, Sri Sri Daya Mata's life presents a superbly harmonious union of Eastern and Western thought-currents on the world stage. Her life shows that the whole universe is the creation of but One God and that the entire human race is the offspring of that One.

"I offer my sincere tribute to that soul who has ascended to the heavenly realms and pray that her other-worldly love and blessings remain with us always."

Swami Vimalananda, President, The Divine Life Society, Rishikesh: "Our petty mind would only register sorrow upon learning of the passing away of our beloved and revered Daya Mata. But in actuality, she has merged with the Supreme. Great ones do not die. They live eternally in our midst guiding us from within. By shedding her mortal body, Mother has only overcome the limitations of the body to become all-pervasive....

"Mother's presence was a great source of inspiration for numerous seekers. Her love and compassion was solace for many who came with grief. Her grace brought hope for those who came with utter hopelessness. Mother has left her body and how is she going to guide and inspire the devotees? Not to worry! Now that Mother has overcome her physical limitations, her presence can be felt all over the world and all the time. She [will] continue to inspire, bring solace and hope to all those who seek sincerely.

"May Mother's choicest blessings be ever upon all of us to guide us in our endeavour to attain the Ultimate Realisation."

Governor of the State of Jharkhand, India, Sri M.O.H. Farook: "I mourn the sad demise of Sri Daya Mata, the foremost disciple of Paramahansa Yogananda....Sri Daya Mata personified love and compassion and the other timeless values of Indian culture....I send my hearfelt condolences and pray

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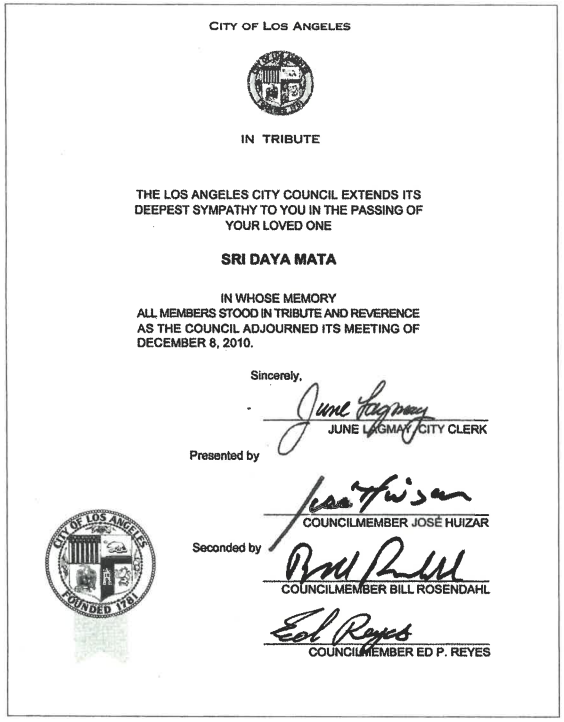
to God to give the members of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India the strength to bear this irreparable loss."

Reverend Prem Anjali, Ph.D., Executive Director, Satchidananda Ashram-Yogaville, Virginia: "We were just informed of the departure from the physical body of beloved and revered Sri Daya Mataji. On behalf of the Trustees of Satchidananda Ashram-Yogaville, the entire Integral Yoga organization and *sangha,* we offer our heartfelt prayers to you and all the Self-Realization Fellowship members. We are holding a special prayer service here at Satchidananda Ashram-Yogaville in remembrance and honor of Sri Daya Mataji.

"We will continue to pay homage to one of the great souls who exemplified *seva* to God, Guru, and the spiritual upliftment of souls in the name of the Divine. Sri Daya Mata's service to humanity was vast as she lovingly shepherded the followers of her revered Master, Paramahansa Yogananda, and his organization.



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

IN TRIBUTE

THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU IN THE PASSING OF YOUR LOVED ONE

SRI DAYA MATA

IN WHOSE MEMORY
ALL MEMBERS STOOD IN TRIBUTE AND REVERENCE AS THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ITS MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2010.

Sincerely,

JUNE LAGMAY, CITY CLERK

Presented by

COUNCILMEMBER JOSÉ HUIZAR

Seconded by

COUNCILMEMBER BILL ROSENDAHL

COUNCILMEMBER ED P. REYES

"Please know that our prayers and heartfelt thoughts are with you at this time, and always. May you all continue, as torchbearers of his great message, to fulfill your holy Master's deepest wishes and vision for Self-Realization. May you continue to devote your lives to your Holy Master and continue to be inspired by Sri Daya Mataji's lifelong example of devotion and dedication."

Vila Mariana Meditation Group, Brazil: "We love Daya Mata here in our little group as our link with the Divine

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my heart. She is and will ever be a deep source of inspiration in my *sadhana.* I thank Divine Mother for having asked her to stay with us for so long. Though saddened for the loss, I am happy for Daya Mataji because she is now free in the infinite ocean of bliss of our Mother Divine. I am sure she will continue to guide us and pray for us from where she is now, at Master's side."

Mother....It was very hard for us to receive the news. We had a meditation service for her. We had tears and feelings of loss, but all of us had the same experience. It was as if Daya Mata did not let us be sad. A sense of peace and joy started invading our hearts (all present—no exceptions). And we all also felt a sense of responsibility. She lived the life of a perfect disciple. Now it is our responsibility to aim to do the same. I felt sad, but she did not let me stay sad. She is more present than ever."

D. Z., California: "I have found, as I suspect many devotees have, that in our beloved Daya Mata's passing we have been profoundly blessed with deepened meditations and loving intuitions whispered in Ma's gentle voice direct to our hearts. I have never felt such an immense love as during these past days of joyful memorial. Our beloved Ma continues to bless us even in her ascendance and we will never be the same, of this I am sure."

Anonymous, Finland: "Her passing has brought with it a greater understanding of the tremendously demanding and significant service she provided—not just for all of us, but for the world at large for so many years."

F. B., Brazil: "It is a great loss not just for us devotees but for the whole world because a great saint and lover of God is not walking this earth anymore. Her life, her message and her example of perfect discipleship inspired us all for decades. As for myself, I can say that I read her books and listened to her tapes so many times that her voice is permanently recorded in my mind and her words are imprinted forever in my heart. She is and will ever be a deep source of inspiration in my *sadhana*. I thank Divine Mother for having asked her to stay with us for so long. Though saddened for the loss, I am happy for Daya Mataji because she is now free in the infinite ocean of bliss of our Mother Divine. I am sure she will continue to guide us and pray for us from where she is now, at Master's side."

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A. R., Italy: "I wrote her several times and I was surprised by her personal interest in each one of us, always answering with thoughts of love and wisdom, practical suggestions to follow the *sadhana* with patience and love, as she did.

"She was a tangible expression of Divine Mother's love—an embodiment of *Prem,* the *Prem* of our Guru, and the *Prem* of the Divine!"

S. B., Georgia: "Paramahansa Yogananda said that after he had left his body, 'Only love can take my place.' We learn from *The Holy Science* that Love is the mightiest universal force of attraction, forever pulling creation back toward the Creator. In this world no one can 'give love'; we can only purify ourselves so that divine love can flow and radiate through us. This is what Sri Daya Mata did beautifully and totally. Wherever she would go, divine love would radiate from her. When she spoke to the annual SRF Convocation, the vibration of her love would fill the entire California Ballroom at the Bonaventure Hotel, and it would be perceived by everyone, even if they were not SRF devotees. Moreover, her love was ornamented and perfumed by her genuine, innocent humility. I do not know of one other example in the whole history of humankind of a leader of a major organization for sixty years that has not tried, at least once, to take credit for the success of the organization. Sri Daya Mata never did; in her writings and talks she always gave credit where credit really belongs—to our Guru and to God. Future generations of SRF monastics and lay disciples alike will be inspired by the exemplary life of Sri Daya Mata to live their own lives in gracious and loving humility."

J. C., Portugal: "There are the great masters: they are like beams of light that guide mankind in darkness and despair during the chaos of our world; and then there are the disciples with an even more important task: Their work is to maintain and to feed that beam of light, so that it never dies or fades away, so that it can keep guiding us in troubled times. Such was the mission of our revered Sri Daya Mata. She was like a light keeper of the teachings and mission of our Master."

E. R., New York: "It's difficult to express with words the torrent of feelings associated with the transitioning of a soul such as our most beloved Sri Daya Mataji. The intensity with which she so very closely guarded the purity and the mandates of Gurudeva are without match in the current Dwapara Age.

"Her flawless selflessness, her unwavering dedication, her astounding loyalty, her most dynamic spirituality, and her baffling simplicity are qualities deeply lacking and sorely missing in today's world; yet she carried on with utter love and devotion for the One we should all aspire to sometime, someday, come face-to-face with—not only setting a perfect and unmatched example, but leaving a legacy not likely to be replicated any time soon.

"The scope of Daya Mataji's life simply escapes the human mentality. Words can be said, books can be written, but her exemplary attunement to God and Gurudeva's work will live forever as one that we all, without exception, should look to emulate and implement in our lives.

"She was a true standard-bearer, carrying the flame of the love of God and Guru with the valiancy of a true warrior, willing to give it all for the cause and her King."

O. and D. B., Bulgaria: "Express consideration to Mataji, whose love and compassion touched our hearts and filled them with divine enthusiasm."

L. M., Connecticut: "I did not have the privilege of meeting Daya Mata in person, but over the years in my *sadhana* there were several times she came to me in dreams. One time was during a period of ardent prayer for a dear friend in the weeks before he died. Ma came and pressed her forehead to mine in blessing, intuitively showing me a powerful way to visualize doing the same for my friend during prayer. So you see, Ma's presence in my life has been there in a very real

and tangible way, despite never having met her in the flesh."

Anonymous, Germany: "I don't want to tell a story; I just want to say that she is in my heart. She is my idol. I want to be like her."

Anonymous, California: "In 2003, my mother and my husband were diagnosed six months apart with metastatic cancer, both given a short time to live. They became critically ill at about the same time. I was able to make the final trip to the East Coast and was given the gift of having my mother pass peacefully in my arms. Two days after her passing, I received a call to return home, as my husband's condition was deteriorating. A few days after I came home, he was in intensive care at the hospital and not expected to live. That night I prayed deeply to Divine Mother, that while I knew she was ever with me, to please give me a human sign to affirm it. I was struggling to maintain my center and the grief was overwhelming at times.

"The very next day I received a call from Mother Center. I was very surprised, as I had not called or written to Mother Center. The beautiful voice said, 'I would like to schedule an appointment for you to speak to a nun, as we have a message for you from Daya Mata, but before I do that, she has asked me to tell you directly that Divine Mother is with you.' Hearing those words I dropped to my knees, sobbing in gratitude beyond measure or words. A few moments later a nun came to the phone, read the message of Beloved Mataji and consoled my soul. This was a profound example of beloved Mataji's perfect attunement with God and Guruji and her great compassion and love for all. I never had the privilege of meeting beloved Mataji in her physical form, but I have her love and compassion etched upon my heart and soul."

W. C., Australia: "I feel so blessed that I was able to see Ma and hear her speak at Convocation in 1993. I will always treasure that evening as one of my life's most precious experiences. The moment she walked into the room the entire

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ORDER INFORMATION

place filled up with what I can only describe as pure love. I just wanted to hold on to that feeling forever."

Anonymous, Canada: "Being in her presence was an experience I will never forget. We were bathed in waves of her love, which reduced us to tears of joy."

S. W., Oregon: "For those of us who have literally 'grown up' with our beloved Daya Mata and the SRF teachings, it is amazing to have her with us, and feel her love more tangibly than ever. I feel that I have been learning to ride a bicycle all these years, and she was running alongside of me—prepared to steady me if I wavered too much. Somehow I know I will be OK; she taught me through her example what I am supposed to learn—unwavering dedication and appreciation for the guru-disciple relationship and the teachings Paramahansa Yogananda has brought us—and that we are Ever Loved. Now to allow that Love to pass through to all."

M. S., Germany: "As I heard of the passing of our beloved Sri Daya Mata it struck me with pain. My whole spiritual life on the path for more than thirty years has been accompanied by the presidency and spiritual leadership of our dear Ma. I took Ma's book *Finding the Joy Within You* and read about her near-death experience in 1948. This comforted me and it filled me with gratitude that she undertook this task beyond human imagination to be the bedrock of our spiritual family and the organization of SRF for more than sixty-two years! I believe that she is now completely absorbed in that wonderful love she experienced back then."

L. W., Oregon: "Whenever I wrote to her, she always answered me; even when I said she didn't have to, she did anyway. How many people worldwide did she painstakingly take under her wing and write to, counsel, and pray for every day of her life! Daya Ma is a true saint. The most beautiful soul I ever met. My life has been changed greatly because of her example and her unconditional love."

N. S., India: "I started my own company in 2001. I wrote to Daya Ma seeking her blessings, but really not expecting a reply, knowing her enormous responsibilities and the many demands on her time. To my great surprise, a reply arrived in no time, encouraging the initiative and providing detailed counsel. The tone was warm and intimate, as if she had known me for ages, whereas we had actually never met.

"This has really, really been my good luck charm so far—I have framed Ma's letter and kept it in my office room all these years. I saw her letter as a good omen when it arrived, perhaps because it was unexpected. Ma's impeccable character and serviceful nature are beacons of light for those like me in the corporate 'jungle.' Her motto of 'Love, serve, and for the rest, leave it to God,' has been very inspiring in my business journey. So proud of her for upholding Guru's ideals in such a blemish-free manner, for eight uninterrupted decades!"

H. S., California: "I never met Daya Mataji in person, but I feel her leaving the body as if I have known her always. To me she represented a mountain of strength and security—just knowing she is there gave me comfort....She is the epitome of wisdom, grace, and love—all in the form of a human being."

E. B., California: "I cannot fully describe the effect she has had on my life: she has become for me a model of feminine divine beauty and love."

R. K., Germany: "Dear beloved Sri Daya Ma....I am so thankful for your letters through the years. Guruji and you have changed my life. Your advice, unconditional love, and unceasing blessings have helped me always. Oh Ma, I love you always. I will still open my heart, mind, and soul for your blessings. Your holy book *Enter the Quiet Heart* (*Die Stimme des Herzens*) is my daily Bible!"

G. T., California: "In the late 1970s I was privileged to attend a *satsanga* that Sri Daya Mata gave for devotees after the

Convocation. After her talk she greeted each devotee as they left the chapel. As I pronamed to her, I looked into her eyes. It was like looking into infinity, into God's eyes. They were endless depths. Never have I experienced this. She smiled and welcomed me to Mother Center, and I left the chapel in a daze. I have never forgotten this experience....

"For those of us who did not know Master, she was the living example of all he taught."

G. H., California: "Many years ago, I was invited to accompany a group of devotees to meet Sri Daya Mata at Mother Center. As we sat in the library, she gave us an informal *satsanga*. I was absolutely transfixed by Daya Mata's eyes. I had heard the phrase 'oceanic gaze,' but never before had I looked into someone's eyes and seen such tremendous depth, strength, and beauty. I feel honored to have walked on this earth at the same time as our beloved Ma."

M. P., Nevada: "I can not even begin to describe how much Daya Ma has affected my life. For nearly fifteen years, listening to her talks or reading her words have been part of my daily routine, and they have really molded my life. Without fail she has kept me on fire with enthusiasm and spiritual determination and yearning for God. But above all she has helped me develop such an intimate, sweet, loving, trusting, and intoxicating friendship with the Divine Beloved.

"Daya Ma helped me turn my meditations into real times of communion. And she helped me turn my duties into acts of love done within the presence of my God. Ma showed me what it means to be a disciple, what it means to be a friend, what it means to be a humble servant, what it means to be a leader — but most of all she showed me what it means to be a Lover. A Lover drunk with the wine of devotion to God."

Anonymous, Maryland: "Her presence, accomplishments, example, will shine like a star for many generations. The very best of India lived in Los Angeles in the form of Sri Sri Daya Mata."

S. L., Texas: "Her life story spoke volumes to me. Her devotion to Master was unfailing and her leadership of SRF was amazing. She gave me continuous inspiration as to how to live a spiritual life by practicing deep communion with God. Words cannot describe how much of an influence she had and will continue to have on me for my entire life."

"She has kept me on fire with enthusiasm and spiritual determination and yearning for God. But above all she has helped me develop such an intimate, sweet, loving, trusting, and intoxicating friendship with the Divine Beloved."

Anonymous, Spain: "Just by seeing her you knew, beyond any shadow of doubt, that Sri Daya Mata was a being of light, all love and goodness. For our family, Sri Daya Mata has been, is, and will be an inexhaustible source of inspiration as well as an example of how a true disciple of Paramahansa Yogananda should be."

P. D., California: "I always felt love when I thought of Ma."

H. W., Australia: "The vast Pacific Ocean no longer separates me from the magnetic presence of Sri Daya Mataji. Our beloved president, leader, teacher, friend has gone to her Guru, into the world of light. Waves of bliss wash our hearts with her sweet joy. Though we are left on the shore, we are not forlorn nor need we grieve that she is there at Master's side. Guru and Disciple—their love-beams reach worldwide. Mother of Compassion, thank you for your life of grace."

N. R., Canada: "Whether on earth or in heaven, Sri Daya Mata lights the path before me." ❑

SRF Announces

NEW PRESIDENT

Sri Mrinalini Mata Elected President and Spiritual Head of SRF/YSS

The Self-Realization Fellowship Board of Directors is happy to announce that Sri Mrinalini Mata has been elected president of Self-Realization Fellowship/ Yogoda Satsanga Society of India — to succeed the late revered Sri Daya Mata as the spiritual leader of Paramahansa Yogananda's worldwide work. Her appointment was made by a unanimous vote by the SRF Board of Directors on Friday, January 7, 2011.

Mrinalini Mata is one of the close disciples of Paramahansa Yogananda personally chosen and trained by him to help guide his society after his passing. She has dedicated more than sixty years to selflessly serving the Guru's work.

Since 1966, she has held the position of vice president of Self-Realization Fellowship. She closely assisted Sri Daya Mata in overseeing the spiritual and humanitarian activities of SRF/YSS, including the worldwide dissemination of Paramahansa Yogananda's teachings, the establishment and guidance of temples, centers, and retreats, and the spiritual direction of the SRF monastic communities. She has also served as editor-in-chief of SRF books, lessons, and periodicals, a responsibility she will continue to hold.

Born in 1931 in Wichita, Kansas, the future Mrinalini Mata grew up in California. It was in 1945 at the young age of fourteen that she first met Paramahansaji, at the SRF temple founded by the Guru in San Diego. Just a few months later, her desire to dedicate her life to seeking and serving God found fulfillment when, with her parents' permission, she entered Paramahansa Yogananda's ashram in Encinitas as a nun of the SRF Order. (Two years later her mother also entered the ashram, receiving the name Meera Mata after taking her final vow of *sannyas*.)

Chosen by Paramahansa Yogananda for a Special Role

Through daily association during the years that followed (up until the time of the Guru's passing in 1952), Paramahansaji devoted close attention to the spiritual training of this young nun. (She also completed her formal education in the local schools.) From the very beginning of her life in the ashram, he recognized and spoke openly to the other disciples about her future role, and personally trained her to prepare his writings and talks for publication after his passing.

About Mrinalini Mata's personal training under Paramahansaji, Sri Daya Mata wrote: "Gurudeva made clear to all of us the role for which he was preparing her, giving her personal instruction in every aspect of his teachings and in his wishes for the preparation and presentation of his writings and talks."

Among the works that have been published as a result of her efforts are Paramahansa Yogananda's masterful commentary on the four Gospels (entitled *The Second Coming of Christ: The Resurrection of the Christ Within You*); his critically acclaimed

translation and commentary on the Bhagavad Gita (*God Talks With Arjuna*); several volumes of his poetry and inspirational writings; and three lengthy anthologies of his collected talks and essays.

Mrinalini Mata — whose name refers to the lotus flower, an ancient symbol of spiritual unfoldment — has made a number of visits to India to assist Sri Daya Mata in guiding the spiritual work of Sri Yogananda's society and has lectured on his teachings in principal cities there. Her talks on the guru-disciple relationship and a variety of other subjects have been published in *Self-Realization* magazine as well as released in audio and video formats — including *In His Presence: Remembrances of Life With Paramahansa Yogananda,* an inspiring video about her years with Paramahansaji and her reflections on his life and teachings.

"I Ask Your Prayers as We Go Forward Together"

Following her election as president on January 7, Mrinalini Mata addressed these words to the SRF monastic community: "I humbly ask your prayers in assuming this responsibility at the request of the Board of Directors. My only wish through the years has been to absorb Master's teachings and serve his blessed work — to be the kind of disciple that he wanted each of us to be — focused on the one Goal for which we came — God alone, and fully surrender to his will for the guidance and welfare of this work and all who follow this path. I hold in my heart....I hold in my heart always the example of our beloved Sri Daya Mata, and the words she so often spoke when facing the decisions she had to make for this society: 'Master, not what I want, but what do *you* want me to do?' That has been the principle by which she guided his work through these many years — and it will be the touchstone for all in future to whom this responsibility is entrusted. God and Guru are the head of this work. It is by Their blessings and our united efforts to be in tune with Them that it will continue to grow and flourish. I cherish your divine friendship, the devoted and selfless service you all give, and ask your prayers as we go forward together." ❑

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Sri Mrinalini Mata, President

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The Mother Center, 3880 San Rafael Avenue (Zip code 90065-3219). Telephone (323) 225-2471. Fax (323) 225-5088. Visiting hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Closed on Monday. All are welcome.

On the Worldwide Web: http://www.yogananda-srf.org

Self-Realization Fellowship Ashram Centers and Temples

Services are held Thursday at 8 p.m. in all temples, except San Diego (7 p.m.); and Sunday at 11 a.m. in all temples except Phoenix (10 a.m.). The same lecture is also given at 9 a.m. in the Pacific Palisades temple, and at 9:30 a.m. in the Hollywood, Encinitas, and San Diego temples. *(Please refer to the "Schedule of Services," available from the international headquarters or any of the temples listed below, for a complete listing of lectures, meditation services, and other activities.)*

ENCINITAS, California: Ashram, Retreat, and Hermitage, 215 K St. at Second (Zip code 92024-5040). Telephone (760) 753-2888. Retreat grounds open to the public 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Closed on Mondays.

Temple: 939 Second Street. Telephone (760) 436-7220 or (760) 753-2888.

SELF-REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP RETREAT, 215 K St., Encinitas, CA (Zip code 92024-5040): guest accommodations and *How-to-Live Retreat* programs. For information call (760) 753-1811 or email encretreat@yogananda-srf.org.

ESCONDIDO, California: SRF Hidden Valley Ashram Center, 16455 Old Guejito Grade Road (Zip code 92027). Tranquil environment where men may stay for brief or extended periods as part of the guest resident "how-to-live" program, participating in the monks' spiritual routine and assisting in the daily activities of the Ashram Center and farm. Please call (760) 749-3399, or email info@hvashram.org, or visit www.hvashram.org for further information.

FRONT ROYAL, Virginia: SRF Greenfield Retreat, 2660 John Marshall Highway (Zip code 22630). Telephone (540) 635-5062. *How-to-Live Retreat* programs.

FULLERTON, California: Temple, 142 East Chapman Avenue (Zip code 92632). Telephone (714) 525-1291.

GLENDALE, California: Temple, 2146 East Chevy Chase Drive (Zip code 91206). Telephone (818) 543-0800.

HOLLYWOOD, California: Ashram, Temple, and India Hall, 4860 Sunset Boulevard (Zip code 90027). Telephone (323) 661-8006.

NÜRNBERG, Germany: Ashram, Laufamholzstrasse 369, 90482 Nürnberg, Germany. Telephone 011 49 (911) 50 10 87. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed on Mondays and holidays. If you wish to visit on Sunday afternoon, please call in advance. Visitors are welcome.

PACIFIC PALISADES, California: Ashram, Temple, Retreat, Lake Shrine, and Mahatma Gandhi World Peace Memorial, 17190 Sunset Boulevard (Zip code 90272). Telephone (310) 454-4114. Open to the public 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Closed Mondays and holidays. (Occasionally closed on Saturdays.)

SELF-REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP RETREAT, 17190 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, CA (Zip code 90272): guest accommodations and *How-to-Live Retreat* programs. For information call (310) 459-4740 or email lsretreat@yogananda-srf.org.

PHOENIX, Arizona: Temple, 6111 North Central Avenue (Zip code 85012). Telephone (602) 279-6140.

RICHMOND, California: Temple, 6401 Bernhard Avenue (Zip code 94805). Telephone (510) 232-6652.

SAN DIEGO, California: Temple, 3072 First Avenue (Zip code 92103). Telephone (619) 295-0170.

Self-Realization Fellowship Centers and Meditation Groups

SRF centers and meditation groups exist throughout the world to provide places for God-seeking souls to come together for group practice of the Self-Realization techniques of meditation and divine communion. For information about meetings and visits by ministers from the Mother Center, contact SRF Center Department, 3880 San Rafael Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90065-3219.

Areas in which there are centers and groups are as follows:

UNITED STATES:

ALASKA, ARIZONA, ARKANSAS, CALIFORNIA, COLORADO, CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, HAWAII, IDAHO, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, KANSAS, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NEVADA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW MEXICO, NEW YORK, NORTH CAROLINA, NORTH DAKOTA, OHIO, OKLAHOMA, OREGON, PENNSYLVANIA, PUERTO RICO, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS, UTAH, VERMONT, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, WISCONSIN.

ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, BRUNEI, BULGARIA, CANADA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, CUBA, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, DUBAI, ECUADOR, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, HONG KONG, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SINGAPORE, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TRINIDAD, UNITED KINGDOM, VENEZUELA.

Yogoda Satsanga Society of India

For information about Yogoda Satsanga activities, and branch centers and meditation group centers throughout India, write to General Secretary, Yogoda Satsanga Society of India, Yogoda Satsanga Branch Math, Paramahansa Yogananda Path, Ranchi 834001, Jharkhand, India.

Headquarters and Ashram Centers

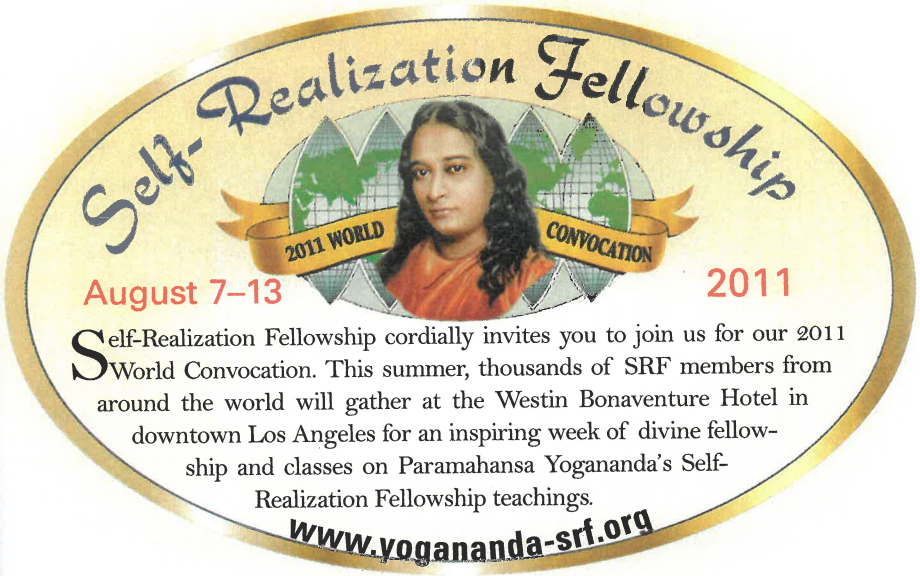
KOLKATA (formerly Calcutta), West Bengal: Registered office (headquarters), Yogoda Satsanga Ashram, Publications Section. Yogoda Satsanga Math, Dakshineswar, Kolkata 700076, West Bengal. Telephone 011 91 (33) 2 564-5931, 011 91 (33) 2 564-2366, or 011 91 (33) 2 564-6208.

RANCHI, Jharkhand: Yogoda Satsanga Ashram. Yogoda Satsanga Branch Math, Paramahansa Yogananda Path, Ranchi 834001, Jharkhand. Telephone 011 91 (651) 2 46-0074, 011 91 (651) 2 46-1578, or 011 91 (651) 2 46-0071.

DWARAHAT, Yogoda Satsanga Sakha Ashram, Dwarahat 263653, District Almora, Uttaranchal. Guest accommodations. Telephone 011 91 (5966) 2 44271.

Schools and Charitable Medical Dispensaries

Paramahansa Yogananda began his Yogoda Satsanga Society work in India with the founding of a Yogoda "How-to-Live" School and Ashram in 1917, offering balanced training in physical, mental, moral, and spiritual ideals for all-round success in life. These principles have expanded into his now worldwide mission and Kriya Yoga teachings. To serve the humanitarian needs of India, Yogoda Satsanga runs in the name and spirit of Paramahansa Yogananda a number of educational institutions and medical dispensaries. These include seventeen educational institutions for boys and girls, and many homeopathic and allopathic medical dispensaries throughout India: a college with degree programs in arts, commerce, and science, boys' school, girls' school, Sevashram medical clinic with allopathic and homeopathic sections, and an eye clinic, all in Ranchi; a college with degree programs in arts, commerce, science, and education in Palpara; high schools and/or primary schools in Bherir Bazar, Chandigarh, Dwarahat, Ghatal, Kulabahal, Ismalichak, Lakhanpur, Palpara, and Payarachak; and medical dispensaries all over India.


Self-Realization Fellowship
2011 WORLD
CONVOCATION
August 7–13
2011
Self-Realization Fellowship cordially invites you to join us for our 2011 World Convocation. This summer, thousands of SRF members from around the world will gather at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles for an inspiring week of divine fellowship and classes on Paramahansa Yogananda's Self-Realization Fellowship teachings.
www.yogananda-srf.org

Last Letter From Sri Daya Mata

(Excerpt from 2011 New Year Letter prepared before her passing. The complete letter was mailed to SRF/YSS members worldwide and is also available on our website.)

Dear One,

Whatever our past experiences or present situation, we can choose from this moment to lead a fulfilling, serviceful life; we can cultivate the qualities of character that bring attunement with God and make worthy achievements possible. Through the new opportunities the year ahead holds, the Divine calls us to reawaken the latent courage and invincibility of our soul—to take charge of our life and become all that we can be.

A vital first step is to shift the focus of our consciousness from the negative to the positive—from obstacles to the goal, from passivity in the face of circumstances to realizing that we can shape our own destiny. Everything you wish to be is within you, and you can bring out those traits by positive thinking and concrete actions. Continuously affirm and practice the qualities you especially want to manifest, such as greater will power, confidence, or patience. Thus you will plant in the deepest levels of your consciousness the seeds of success. If old patterns recur, refuse to give up. Remember that you can begin anew each day and each moment that you put forth a re-energized resolve.

Behind everything we seek in this world is our greatest need of all—to reestablish our connection with Him who is the Source of our being. When you commune with Him, letting go of all thoughts of self and of this world, such a soothing peace fills the heart—a sweetness and sense of well-being that nothing else can give. You are secure in His love and know that with His help you can do anything. As Guruji said, "Every time you feel limitations, close your eyes and say to yourself, 'I am the Infinite,' and you will see what power you have." By using that power to steadily improve yourself, you can be a positive, uplifting influence upon all who cross your path. I pray that, as you lay before God your highest aspirations and resolves, you may become aware of His supporting presence and the tender care with which He is guiding your soul's unfolding and drawing you closer to Him.

A happy and blessed new year to you and your loved ones,

Daya Mata